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TANKFEST 2011 SHOW REPORT

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 66 - October 2011

www.modelmilitary.com

HOPE FLOATS

Dragon 1:35 scale Type 2 (Ka-Mi) Japanese Amphibious Tank

WIN a Badger 200 airbrush set

BUFFALO SOLDIER

Gaso-Line 1:48 Buffalo MRAP

PREDATOR ON PATROL

Trumpeter's 1:35 E100 with alternate turrets

INSIDE: 1:72 88 mm FLAK ■ 1:35 Sd.Kfz. 10/5 ■ 1:35 VK4502 ■ 1:35 Panzer IV/70 (A) ■ 1:35 ZTZ 96 ■ and more...

October 2011 / £4.20 / Issue 66

These Ready Made Resin Ruined Buildings come unpainted but completely built apart from the optional window glazing. They make superb additions for dioramas and props for wargaming. Painting guides are supplied, but these can be painted in any colour using either Humbrol Enamels or Acrylics.

Humbrol Acrylic
Humbrol Enamel

A75008 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN BREWERY

Breweries are commonplace in many towns of Northern Europe. This one, based on a German style has suffered severe damage in the onslaught.

A75007 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN FOUR STOREY SHOP

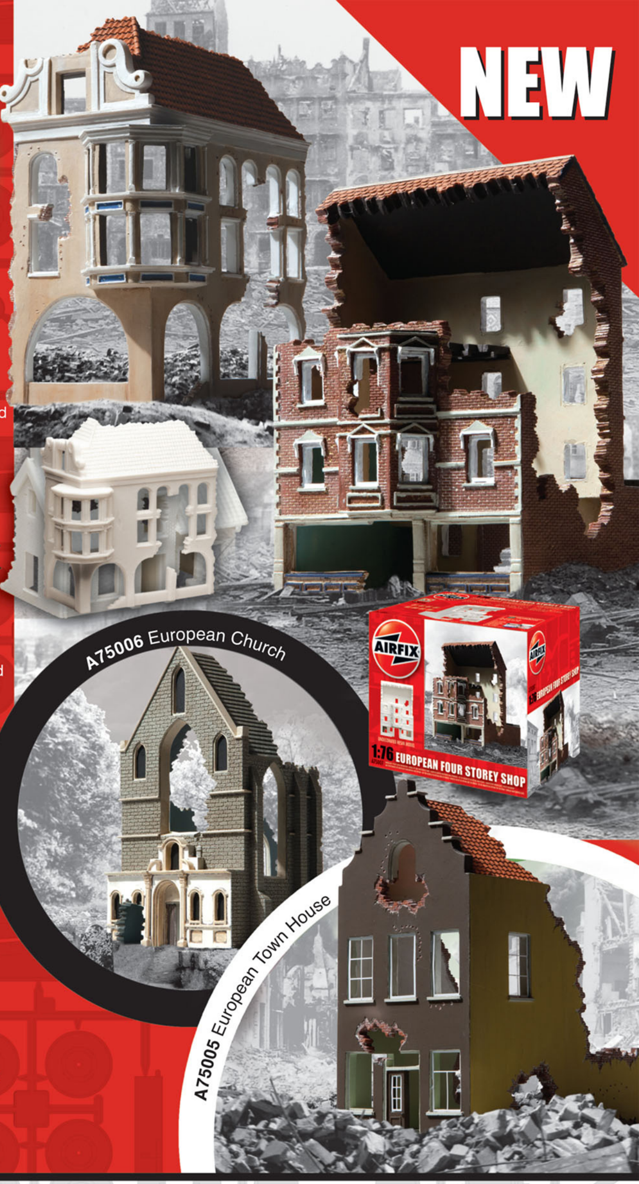
As the Allies battles their way into German towns in 1944 adn 1945 many businesses were ruined as the opposing armies fought ferociously from street to street.

A75006 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN CHURCH

As most towns across Europe had a church as a centrepiece, they in turn of course became casualties of war themselves. This is a style found in Belgium.

A75005 1:76 SCALE
EUROPEAN TOWN HOUSE

The hard-fought battles across Europe destroyed many a private dwelling, and this model represents a style found in Belgium during WWII.



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LOTTERY GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW MUSEUM PROJECT

The Tank Museum has passed a Stage 1 application for £2.7m from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

HLF Trustees have granted the Dorset museum £150,000 to support the development of detailed plans for a proposed Vehicle Conservation Centre, the main feature of which will be a new 40,000 sq ft building intended to provide insulated storage for up to 120 vehicles.

Tank Museum Director Richard Smith said; "We are delighted to have passed this critical hurdle in the process, and we can now turn our attention to developing our Stage 2 application to secure the funding."

The project, which follows a £16m HLF sponsored redevelopment of the museum, focuses on the term conservation needs of The Tank Museum's unique collection.

Richard said; "We want to put indoors all the vehicles that are outdoors and those that are currently housed in cramped, damp and unheated sheds need to be stored in a building suitable for their longer term conservation needs."

The Vehicle Conservation Centre will provide the space and facilities for a detailed and ongoing research programme into the preservation of historic vehicles, whilst providing a focus for even more museum volunteers to carry out structured conservation work on the collections.

Alongside the benefits of increased storage capacity and volunteering opportunities, the proposals also offer significant benefits for the visitor. Richard said; "The new building will be publicly accessible, making these normally `off-display` vehicles visible to all visitors for the first time ever."

The bid also includes the provision of two major new exhibitions inside the Museum's Discovery Centre, along with the flexibility to allow a rolling programme of exhibitions in the future.

The total project cost is set at £5.4m, and could be complete by late 2013. The Museum will now begin a fundraising campaign to raise £2.7m to match the HLF funding. To find out how you can help, click ***www.tankmuseum.org***

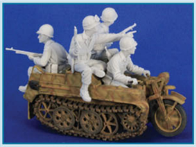
FATHER'S DAY, IWM STYLE!

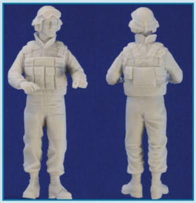
Families celebrated Father's Day in style on Sunday 19 June at IWM Duxford's Military Vehicle Show.

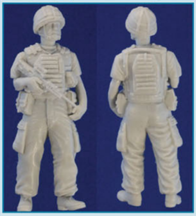
Over 170 vehicles of many shapes and sizes were on display, including many vehicles normally only seen on static display in Land Warfare.

A number of living history groups brought military campaigns to life, chatting to visitors about their displays.

Thousands of visitors found Military Vehicle Show to be the perfect way to celebrate Father's Day – with lots of very happy fathers and families at the end of the day!







COMING SOON FROM NEW WORLD MINIATURES

Chris Mrosko from New World Miniatures tells us that there will be three new releases available soon:

- U.S. Army Rangers on Kettenkrad
- British Soldier Afghanistan
- Israeli Tanker 1980's

More information may be found on NWM's website ***www.newworldminiatures.com***

DRAGON M4A3 75(W) SHERMAN – AVAILABLE NOW

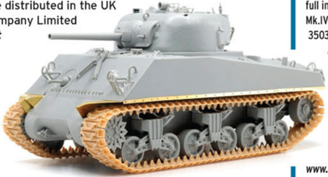
The Hobby Company has advised that Dragon's new 1:35 scale M4A3 Sherman, Kit No. 6698, will be availabl on hobby shop shelves by the time you read this.

Dragon's "wet stowage" 75mm M4A3 kit is based on the very latest moulds, and it builds upon recent Sherman plastic kit releases. It has accurate VVSS suspension, and the T-54E1 with end extension connectors. The tracks are made from full-length DS flexible plastic, which makes them easy to assemble with no compromise in accuracy as these "live" Sherman tracks did not sag.

New parts include the whole upper hull, while the accurate turret receives new brackets on the top where a spare machine gun barrel can be stowed.

This highly detailed kit fills a void in Dragon's Sherman family, with the M4A3 being an extremely important tank in the Allied and US effort to liberate Europe.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited ***www.hobbyco.net***



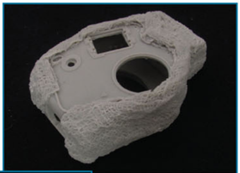
INSIDE THE ARMOUR NEW RELEASES

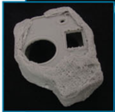
"Inside the Armour" has certainly been busy lately. In addition to the items reviewed in our "Incoming" section this month, they have also announced another two new releases for AFV Club's excellent Churchill Mk.IV kit:

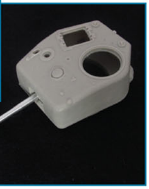
35032 Churchill Mk.IV Turret (Early) Camouflaged directly replaces the turret on the AFV Club Mk.IV Churchill kit to give you a turret fitted with camouflage net, as commonly seen in Northwest Europe 1944 to 1945. This set includes limited interior fittings (commander's seat, internal lights, fan, internal pistol port detail) to make it suitable for the fitting of full interior details found in 35022 - Churchill Mk.IV Interior

35033 Churchill Mk.VI Turret Conversion (for AFV Club Mk.IV Churchill 35154) directly replaces the turret on the AFV Club Mk.IV Churchill to make a Mk.VI Churchill. This features the correct square mantlet aperture and RB Models lovely turned 75mm barrel.

For more information, you can visit Inside the Armour's website ***www.insidethearmour.com***







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1:3

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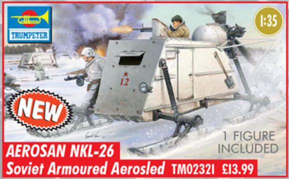
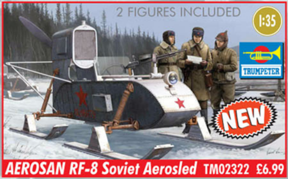
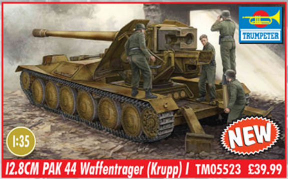
SR-16 RIFLE TM01908 £14.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW
1 FIGURE INCLUDED

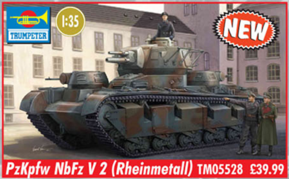
AEROSAN NKL-26
Soviet Armoured Aerosled TM02321 £13.99


2 FIGURES INCLUDED
1:35
TRUMPETER
NEW

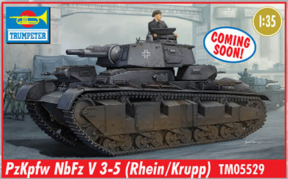
AEROSAN RF-8 Soviet Aerosled TM02322 £6.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

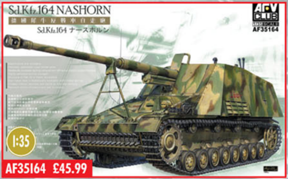
12.8CM PAK 44 Waffentrager (Krupp) I TM05523 £39.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
NEW

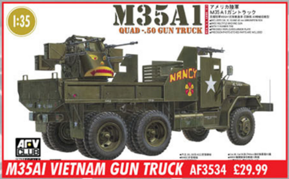
PzKpfw NbFz V 2 (Rheinmetall) TM05528 £39.99


TRUMPETER
1:35
COMING SOON!

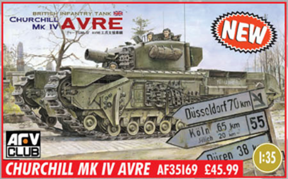
PzKpfw NbFz V 3-5 (Rhein/Krupp) TM05529


Sd.Kfz.164 NASHORN
Sd.Kfz.164 ナースホルン
AFV CLUB
AF35164
1:35

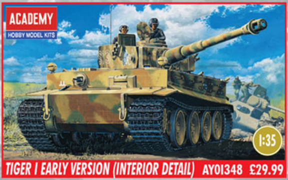
AF35164 £45.99


1:35
M35A1
QUAD -.50 GUN TRUCK
NANCY
AFV CLUB

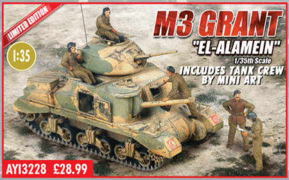
M35AI VIETNAM GUN TRUCK AF3534 £29.99


BRITISH INFANTRY TANK
CHURCHILL MK IV AVRE
NEW
Düsseldorf 70 km
Köln 65 km
Jülich 20 km
55
Düren 38
AFV CLUB
1:35

CHURCHILL MK IV AVRE AF35169 £45.99


ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
1:35

TIGER I EARLY VERSION (INTERIOR DETAIL) AY01348 £29.99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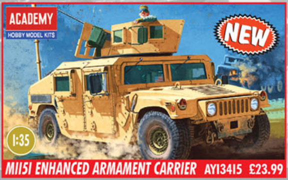
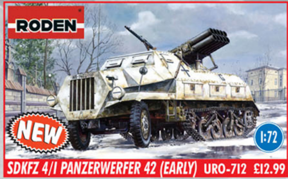
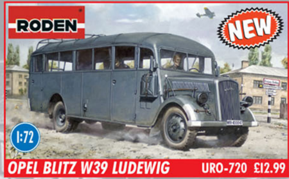

ACADEMY
HOBBY MODEL KITS
NEW
1:35

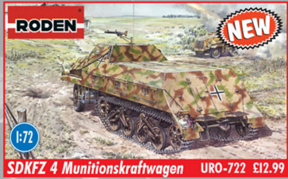
MII5I ENHANCED ARMAMENT CARRIER AY13415 £23.99


RODEN
NEW
1:72

SDKFZ 4/I PANZERWERFER 42 (EARLY) URO-712 £12.99


RODEN
NEW
1:72

OPEL BLITZ W39 LUDEWIG URO-720 £12.99


RODEN
NEW
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SDKFZ 4 Munitionskraftwagen URO-722 £12.99

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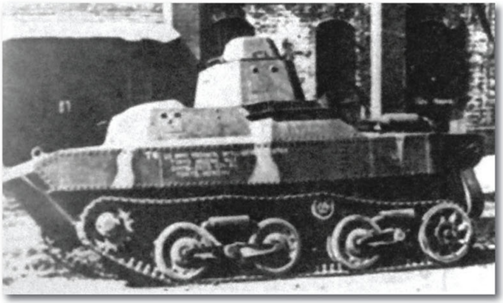


The SR-II Ro-go was an earlier Japanese Army attempt at a tactically useful amphibious light tank, but its relatively poor performance led to the cancellation of the project. The Japanese Navy took over development of an amphibious light tank in 1940.

Bruce Culver examines the origins, development, deployment and operations of this unique Japanese amphibious tank.

THE JAPANESE TYPE 2 KA-MI AMPHIBIOUS LIGHT TANK

Although Japanese tanks were often not as effective as their Allied oppositionon a design by design basis, Japan had a robust experimental program that produced an astounding array of prototypes and special-purpose vehicles through the 1930s and all of WWII. The primary reasons that so many Japanese tanks and other vehicles were not effective in combat were the low priority placed on armoured vehicle design and procurement by the Japanese military leadership, and the lack of industrial resources that led armoured vehicle programs and production to be sacrificed to the needs of the Navy and Air Forces.

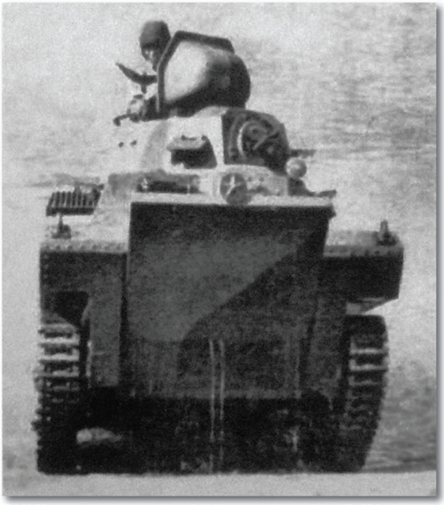
The Japanese Army began development of small amphibious tanks in 1928, to serve as scouting vehicles for shore landings and for river and lake operations. A few designs resulted, culminating in the SR-II Ro-go, a small amphibious tank suitable for calmer water such as rivers and lakes. It used the basic hull for buoyancy, resulting in insufficient freeboard to engage in ocean operations or landings from the sea.

The Japanese Navy had created Special Naval Landing Forces (SNLF) composed of Imperial Marines and in 1940 took over the Army's amphibious tanks program to develop a new tank capable of use in the open ocean offshore. The design team used the basic chassis design of the Type 95 Ha-go light tank, but built a completely new enlarged hull to accommodate the crew of six and provide sufficient flotation. The basic hull could not support the full weight of the operational vehicle and so the designers included flotation pontoons fore and aft. These were normally dropped from the tanks once they had reached shore.

The new design, the Type 2 Ka-mi, was one of the best amphibious tanks used in WWII, though much of its performance resulted from the necessary limitations on its armour protection. In place of the usual riveted construction of most Japanese tanks, the Ka-mi was welded, with special sealing around all the fasteners. Armour protection ranged from 6-13mm, and the entire hull was intended to be watertight.

To add the necessary buoyancy, the Ka-mi used two mild steel flotation pontoons welded from 3mm steel sheet, which attached to the front and rear of the tank hull. The forward pontoon was divided into eight compartments to prevent catastrophic leaks in case of penetration by small arms fire or shell fragments. They were retained by closing claw hooks that engaged pins on the pontoons. The pontoons could be dropped from the hull by turning hand wheels that opened the claws. These were operated by the crew inside.

The Type 2 Ka-mi was powered by a 110-120 HP Mitsubishi 6-cylinder air-cooled diesel engine, which could drive the tracks for land operation or twin rear-mounted propellers for use in the water. The tank commander operated the vehicle when in the water, as the forward pontoon



The SR-II Ro-go was high and narrow, and as small and light as needed for better flotation. The SR-II was not equipped with pontoons and the hull provided all the buoyancy. The thin plates were vulnerable to most armour-piercing rifle ammunition, and special sealing was needed around all the rivets to prevent leaks.

blocked the driver's vision completely. The commander controlled the propellers and twin rudders using cables from his position in the turret. In the water the Ka-mi could achieve a speed of 10 km/h (6 mph); on land, maximum speed was 37 km/h (23 mph). The transmission had 4 gears forward and 1 gear in reverse. Normal range on roads was 200 km (125 mi); in water, maximum range was 150 km (93 mi).

The Ka-mi mounted a fully rotating turret that carried a 37mm Type 1 cannon with a 7.7mm Type 97 light machine gun firing coaxially with the main gun. A second 7.7mm Type 97 machine gun was mounted in the front plate next to the driver's view port. For deep wading, an extended trunk could be attached to the top of the turret to prevent swamping. An extended air intake trunk was installed on the rear deck for the same reason. Many Ka-mi tanks were delivered to islands or garrisons as ordinary land-based tanks and never mounted the pontoons or intake trunks. Though apparently used rarely, there were arrangements to carry two naval torpedoes on the sides of the hull.

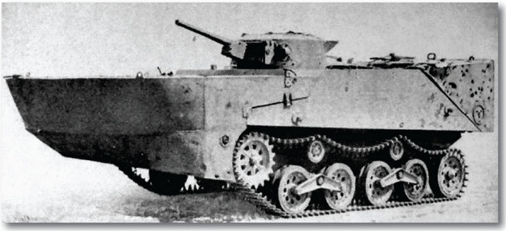
The Type 2 Ka-mi had a crew of six: commander, driver, gunner, loader, a crewman to help operate the releases for the pontoons, and a mechanic/engineer to maintain the complex systems in the Ka-mi.

By the time the Ka-mi entered service, the Japanese had swept through the western Pacific and captured a number of strategic island chains important to Japan's control of the sea lanes carrying the materials the Japanese needed to support their economy and war-making industry. Most of these Type 2s were deployed without the pontoon system as it wasn't needed for garrison duties.

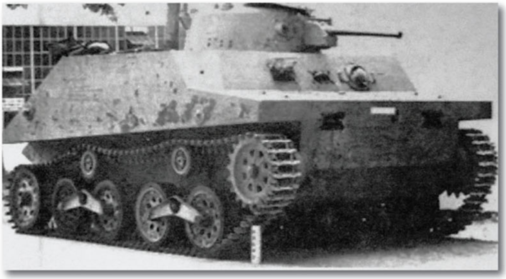
The US Army first encountered the Ka-mi on Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands in January 1944. The Ka-mis were not engaged by American troops and were captured at the end of fighting in February. At least one captured example was sent to Aberdeen Proving Ground for study.

The Ka-mi next appeared in the Mariana island chain. The 1st Yokosuka SNLF had three Type 2 Ka-mi tanks to support a night attack near Garapan. Illuminated by star shells, the Ka-mi force was destroyed by USMC tanks and bazookas, the first significant use of the bazooka rocket launcher in the Pacific.

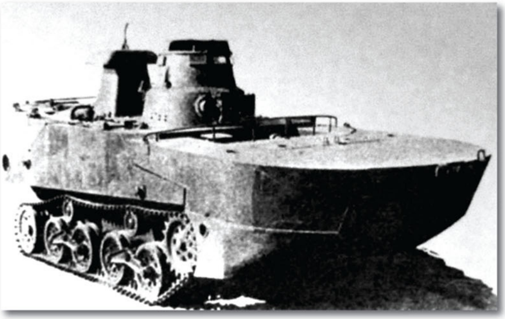
In October 1944, the Itoh SNLF attempted to counter US landings



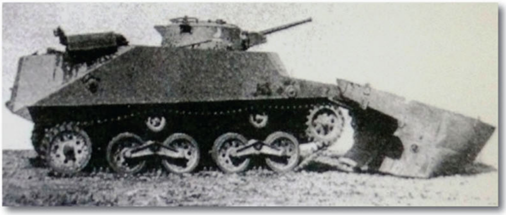
This Type 2 Ka-mi amphibious tank was photographed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, and was captured on Kwajalein. The Ka-mi had many design features that interested Army technical analysts since the US did not have any amphibious tanks similar to this type. Note the large fore and aft pontoons, which were usually jettisoned when the tank reached the shoreline.



Without the pontoons, the Type 2 Ka-mi was a large rather boxy tank with a great deal of interior room, though that was needed for the 6-man crew. Its size may have been impressive, but most of the thin armour was capable of being penetrated by US infantry weapons firing armour-piercing bullets.



Ka-mi tanks intended for landings in poor conditions could be fitted with an air intake tower over the engine, and a turret extension to prevent swamping the tank in rough surf or higher waves. Though not that common, Ka-mi tanks were fitted with both devices. Most photographs show only the rear air intake tower.

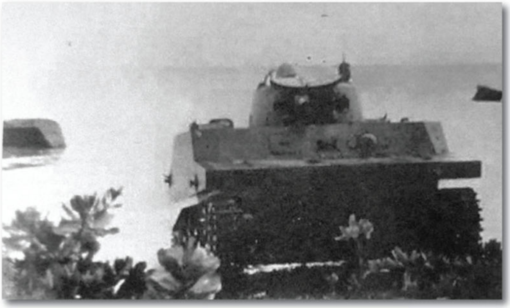


Photographed during evaluation testing, this Ka-mi shows the drop-away design of the forward pontoon. The front pontoon had eight compartments to prevent catastrophic loss of buoyancy from bullet strikes and shell fragments.

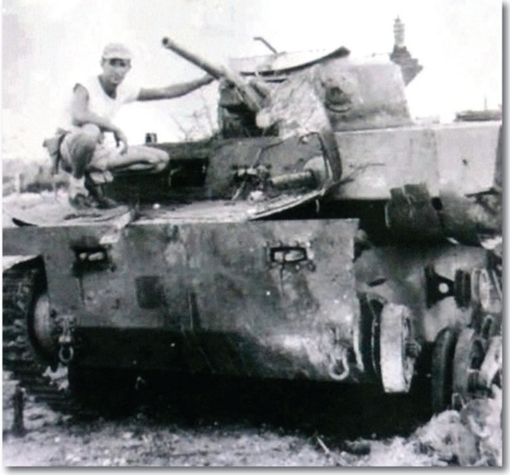
at Leyte in the Philippines, mounting an amphibious assault. The SNLF had 10 Type 2 Ka-mi tanks, but these were destroyed with the rest of the group by artillery and US tanks. While Ka-mi tanks encountered on Kwajalein and in the Solomons were painted grey overall, the later tanks seen in the Marianas and Philippines were in dark green. The grey may well have been Yokosuka Naval Arsenal grey, and the dark green has been identified as Gaigen No. 21 (green).

The last engagement involving the Type 2 Ka-mi was in the Kurile Islands, the northern chain that extended from Hokkaido. The 11th Tank Regiment was sent to the island of Shimushu with 39 Type 97 Chi-ha medium tanks and 25 Type 95 Ha-go light tanks to defend the island against a possible Russian invasion. There was a detachment of Ka-mi tanks on Shimushu, but when the Russians did attack on 18 August 1945, the Ka-mi unit was on the opposite side of the island and thus took no part in the last Japanese tank action of WWII. One of the Shimushu Ka-mi tanks is displayed in the Kubinka tank museum in Russia.

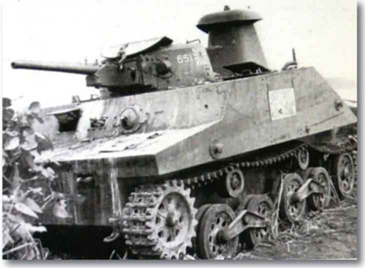
The battles in the Marianas proved once and for all the technical inferiority of Japanese service tanks compared to American equipment, and there was little the Japanese could do to redress this in the remaining months of the war. Many advanced prototypes appeared in Japan, including some heavy tanks that might have presented significant resistance. Held in reserve for the expected invasion of the home islands, they ended the war sitting in neat rows, on parade for the arriving Allied occupation troops. ■



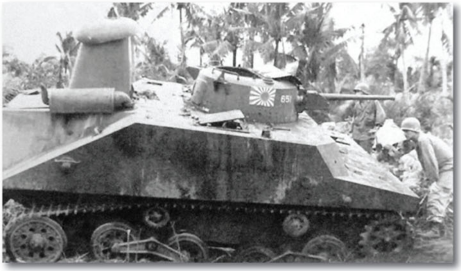
The crew of this Type 2 Ka-mi has dropped its pontoons in the shallow water off the beach. In some campaigns, crews retained the pontoons for the extra protection they offered from enemy small arms fire. In jungle fighting the pontoons were usually dropped as they made the Ka-mi hard to manoeuvre.



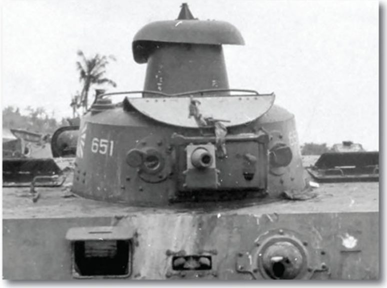
This knocked-out Ka-mi shows the effect of hits on the thin armour plates, some of which have peeled back like cardboard. Crew casualties were usually high and a large number of these light tanks were completely destroyed. Note the hooks in front for retaining the forward pontoon. These were released by the crew inside to drop the pontoons.



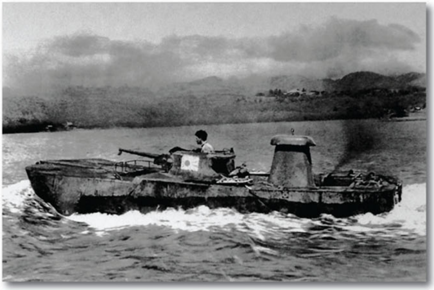
During the battle for Leyte in the Philippines, the Itoh Special Naval Landing Force employed ten Type 2 Ka-mi tanks in an attack on US troops. Few of them made it ashore and all were knocked out. This is one of the intact examples from the SNLF operation.



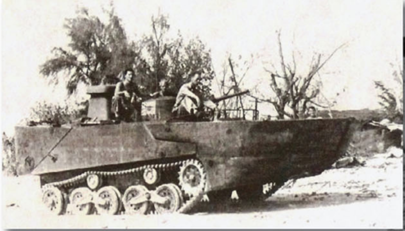
The same tank showing the rear air intake trunk. The Itoh SNLF Ka-mis were painted overall dark green using Japanese naval camouflage colors. The main gun and mounting were painted in Japanese army ordnance brown-khaki, as the weapons were delivered from an army ordnance depot to the navy



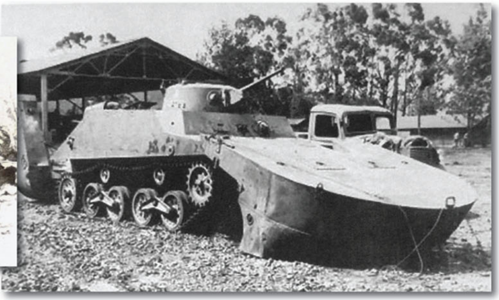
This front view shows the fitting used top retain the forward float pontoon, between the driver's view port and the bow machine gun mount. The hooks were released from inside using a handwheel. There were several individual hook-handwheel assemblies in the vehicle, fore and aft.



Many captured Ka-mis were tested by US and Allied troops, as the US had no pontoon supported amphibious tanks. This is one of the Itoh SNLF Ka-mi tanks from Leyte.

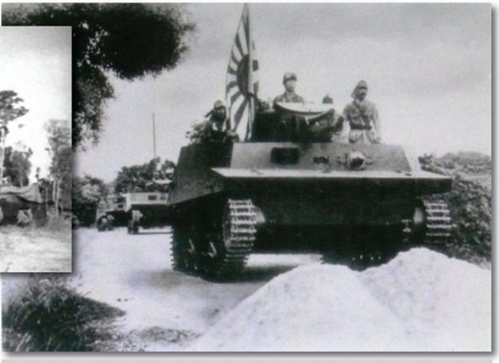


US troops test a captured Type 2 Ka-mi after the Leyte campaign. This example is painted overall green. Some Japanese Ka-mi crews retained the pontoons for extra protection.



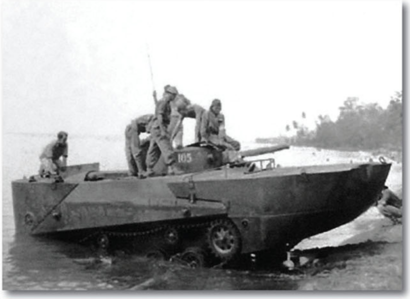
While the rear pontoon slid cleanly down the rear of the tank hull and rolled away, as seen here, the front pontoon had to be pushed out of the way, or the tank had to back up and drive around the pontoon if it hung up on obstacles.

This group of Ka-mi tanks was found on an airstrip near Ponape on the island of New Ireland. These tanks are all dark green. Ka-mi units that occupied Japanese territory often were deployed without the pontoons, as they were used as land-based armour.

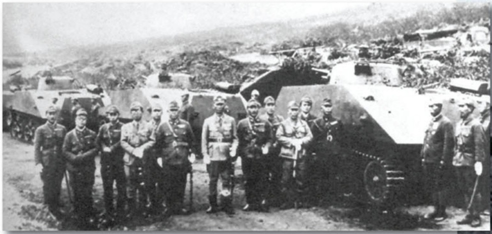


The Yokosuka Ist Special Naval landing Force landed on Saipan in the Marianas with three Type 2 Ka-mi amphibious tanks. They were landed without the pontoons and used as land-based tanks during the battle for the island in 1944. This view shows the extreme width of the Ka-mi hull.

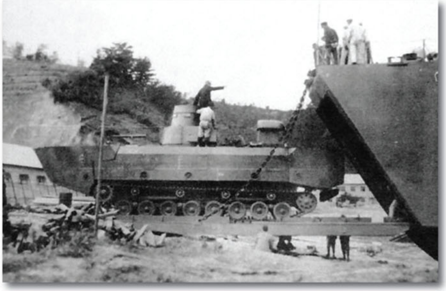
Think Tank - The Japanese Type 2 Ka-mi Amphibious Light Tank



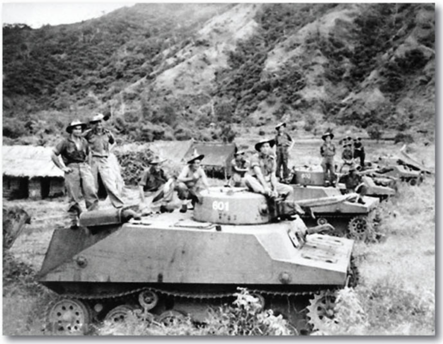
Here a Japanese Type 2 Ka-Mi amphibious tank comes ashore after trials carried out by men of the Australian 2/4 Armoured Regiment in Talili Bay, Rabaul, New Britain, Solomon Islands, 194



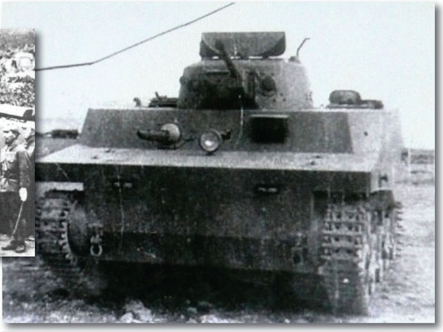
The Japanese made extensive preparations for the defence of the home islands. These Ka-mi tanks were deployed to Shimushu in the Kurile island chain north of Japan. Russian troops attacked after the August 15 ceasefire and the Japanese forces resisted. These Ka-mi tanks were on the opposite side of the island and thus did not take part in the last Japanese tank battle of WWII.



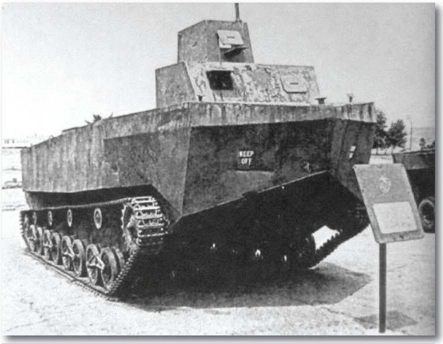
The Japanese built a dozen Type 3 Ka-chi medium amphibious tanks based on the chassis of the Type 3 Chi-he medium tank. They remained in the Yokosuka naval base and were apparently never used in combat. The Ka-chi was a large vehicle due to the need for more buoyancy. It carried the 47mm gun used in the Chi-ha, giving it some defence capability.



Australian troops display a group of Ka-mi amphibious tanks in the Solomon Islands. A fairly large number of Japanese tanks and other vehicles were evaluated after the war.



This Ka-mi was captured by Russian troops on Shimushu island following the Russian amphibious assault on 18 August, 1945. The Japanese tanks were no match for the Russian anti-tank guns, but they did not participate in the fighting against the Russian invasion troops.



The Type 4 Ka-tsu was designed as an unarmoured amphibious transport, though it could carry two torpedoes and light cannon or machine guns for defence. This example is preserved at the US Marine museum at Camp Pendleton, California.

BADGER

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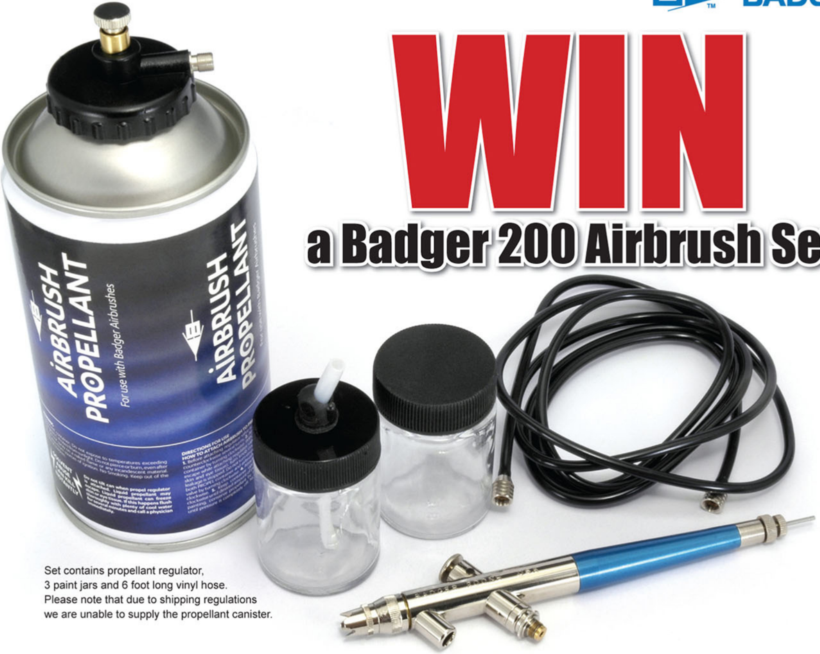

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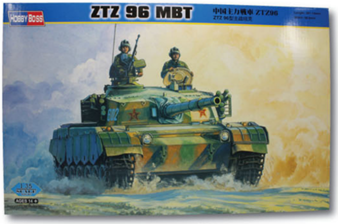


Andy King takes a look at the contents of HobbyBoss' latest Chinese Main Battle Tank kit, their 1:35 scale ZTZ-96.

FINE CHINA MBT

The ZTZ 96 is the current MBT (Main Battle Tank) of the PLA (People's Liberation Army) of China. Based on the earlier Type 85-III, it entered service in 1997 and sports a 125mm smoothbore gun, a crew of three and weighs in at around 41 tons. With its 1000hp diesel engine, it can cruise along at 57 kph (approx 35 mph).

The gun has an auto-loading feature and can fire APFSDS (Armour Piercing, Fin Stabilised, Discarding Sabot), HEAT (High Explosive Anti-Tank) and HE-FRAG (High Explosive-Fragmentation) rounds.

Apart from China, the tank has also been sold to Pakistan with Bangladesh strongly considering it too.

Comprising some 586 parts, the kit is moulded in a sand coloured styrene. The quality of moulding is good although there are a few bits of flash here and there. The standard of moulded detail is good too but you may want to beef up the weld seams as they are very fine and would probably disappear under a coat of paint. A small fret of etched metal is included for the engine grills and other little bits, a couple of lengths of copper wire for the tow cables and some vinyl tubing for plumbing the rear fuel tanks. HobbyBoss also includes a length of copper wire to fit inside the vinyl tube so that it will keep its shape when fitted which I thought was a good idea.

The lower hull is one piece and test fitting the hull top suggests that it will be a very good fit. The lower hull features detail in the form of an escape hatch and engine access hatch.

The tracks are made up from individual links and they are nicely moulded but with faint ejector pin marks present on the outside, although these should disappear with paint and an application of mud. There are four sprue attachment points on each link so some clean up will be required, but an evening's work should cover that. The same goes for the road wheels only this time the attachment points obscure the tread pattern so that will have you scratching your head as to how to remove them cleanly from the sprue.

The gun barrel is in two halves so care will be needed not to 'flat-spot' the barrel along the seams after assembly, particularly awkward as it is a jacketed type and has lumps and bumps along the length.

The brackets for the rear fuel tanks are made up from three parts and look very good indeed. Obviously etch metal ones will have the edge every time for scale thickness but the kit ones are not bad at all.

The turret-mounted 12.7mm DshK AA gun is made up from fifteen parts and is nicely detailed, even down to the flash suppressor on the end of the barrel.

On either side of the turret are stowage baskets and these are finely moulded, however the sprue attachment point are quite thick and will make removal of the basket parts very tricky without destroying them.

Interior detail is not provided.

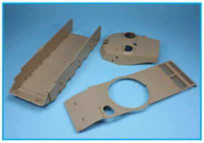
The instructions seem to be straightforward and run over twelve pages with a separate sheet for the painting guide. The decal sheet itself is limited to two red stars for the turret sides and numbers. 602 is the sole vehicle featured on the painting guide but with the extra numbers you can go wild and do others like 603.

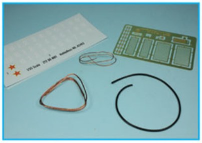
The paint scheme itself is a rather snazzy three tone one of sand and two shades of green. Colour call outs are from Mr Hobby, Vallejo, Model Master, Tamiya and Humbrol but unless you have access to the Chinese equivalent of a Federal Standard chart then you shouldn't lose too much sleep fretting on the exact shades.

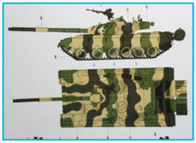
In summary, this is quite a nice kit and considering the RRP (here in the UK at least) and eye catching camouflage scheme, what HobbyBoss are capable of doing should give other kit manufacturers from that neck of the woods some food for thought. Okay, the subject matter may not be to everyone's taste and it may not have the bells and whistles of other far eastern manufacturers, but for an introduction to armour modelling this is a very competitively priced kit and well detailed.

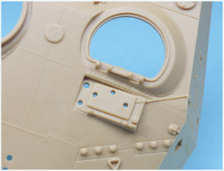
For the above reasons I have to say this kit comes highly recommended. ■

HobbyBoss kits are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

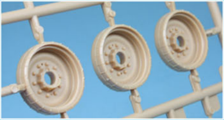

The parts are well moulded.


Multimedia contents include a photo-etched fret, plastic tube and wire.


The camouflage finish is pretty snazzy!

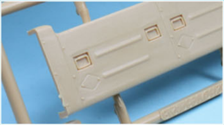

The weld bead detail is quite fine and might benefit from beefing up prior to painting.

Surface detail on the big turret is very well done.


You'll have fun trying to free the wheels from the sprues while retaining the tyre tread detail.

An evening in front of the television should see the track links cleaned up.

Track guards.


Stowage bin detail looks great, even in plastic.

The drive sprocket, complete with casting marks.

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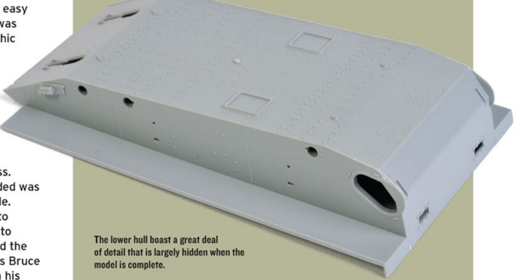
HOPE FLOATS

Luke Pitt wastes no time building Dragon's brand new 1:35 Type 2 Ka-mi Japanese Amphibious Tank, and finds it a fast and enjoyable project.

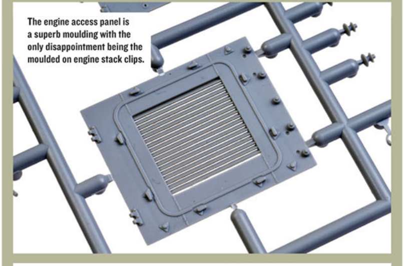
The Japanese Type 2 Ka-Mi has always been something of an enigma to me. I believe this probably stemmed from a story overheard at a friend's birthday party many years ago. As a small boy, I listened intently at the party as the adults talked and shared stories about the war. One of my friend's fathers recounted a story about how he found himself testing a small Japanese tank in New Guinea after the war. The story involved him having all sorts of adventures in the water with this tank that could float. A tank that could float! I thought to myself, how can that work?

As a boy, the story was etched into my mind and so began my quest to find and indeed build a model of this mystical floating tank. As with most things in life, ideas, interests and indeed passions change. Over the years however, as more information came to hand, the thought of scratch building one became a real option. It was, after all, just a collection of flat panels and would (or so I believed) be fairly easy to do. The main problem was the lack of any photographic or scale plan coverage on the vehicle itself. Over time, various aftermarket manufacturers have attempted to produce resin kits of the vehicle with varying degrees of success. But what the market needed was an injected plastic example.

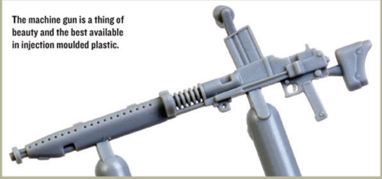
Dragon has now come to the rescue. I will not go into the development or indeed the deployment of this tank as Bruce Culver has covered this in his "Think Tank" piece ahead of this article, but I will say it was the firm hope by the Japanese Military planners that this concept would provide a tactical advantage on their inland hopping campaign in the early stages of the Second World War. Hope indeed was floated on this idea. However, reality and the course of the war changed what seemed to be a good idea at the time. ▶



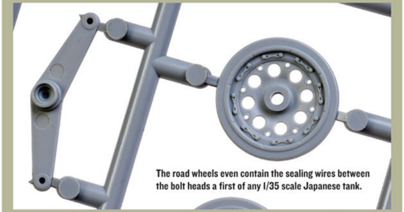
The lower hull boast a great deal of detail that is largely hidden when the model is complete.



The engine access panel is a superb moulding with the only disappointment being the moulded on engine stack clips.

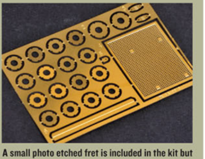


The machine gun is a thing of beauty and the best available in injection moulded plastic.



The road wheels even contain the sealing wires between the bolt heads a first of any 1/35 scale Japanese tank.

The vinyl tracks are some of the best renditions ever kitted with outstanding detail present.



A small photo etched fret is included in the kit but the engine screen is a little heavily rendered.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

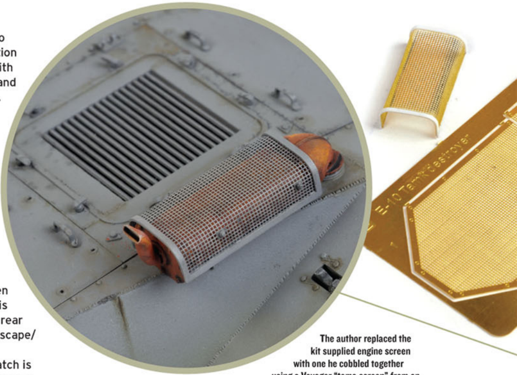
Dragon's 1:35 scale Type 2 (Ka-Mi) Japanese Amphibious Tank is moulded in light grey plastic on just eight sprues. The detail and fit of this kit is to a very high standard. The kit is presented in a standard box with a first class illustration adorning the box top. The lower hull is moulded in as a plastic tub and has full underside detail present. The rivet detail is some of the best that I have ever seen on a plastic model. The road wheels are very well detailed with the road wheel hubs showing superb detail. One inclusion that is a first for any plastic Japanese tank is the "sealing wires" between the bolt heads on the road wheels. The drive sprockets are presented in two halves and have detail on both sides of each sprocket. Be warned however, as these are very small and delicate, care must be employed when removing them from the sprue. The characteristic boomerang-shaped bogie assemblies are a tad too sharp at the apex and may need to be rounded off a little. The kit is supplied with two soft full length vinyl track mouldings that are quite breathtaking in their execution. Not only are the guide teeth hollow but the end connectors are hollow as well. From my experience the characteristic sag"of most Japanese tracks is almost impossible to achieve in this medium but on the upside, the tracks can be glued together with normal plastic cement. CyberHobby has released a so-called "Magic Track" option for this kit and they are, in a word, superb. Not only is the detail as good as the vinyl examples but they can be glued to produce the sag that is often seen on this type.

The upper hull comes as a separate central superstructure, with the front plate and rear engine access panels as separate pieces. The rivet heads and weld beads on the hull are accurate in both size and shape. These two features are some of the best renditions of these features I have seen on a plastic kit in quite some time and are a credit to the designers involved. The front hull inspection hatches and rear engine compartment doors are also separate parts. This presents the possibility of showing some internal detail but I am at a loss to suggest where you would find any information on it. Dragon to their credit has included some detail including fuel tanks, internal float release units and internal bulkhead, but in reality there was not much to see up front. The rear, however, is another matter entirely.

The turret is split into two pieces. The main upper section is presented as one piece with some wonderful weld bead and bolt head detail in evidence. There is a wealth of detail on the turret ring but on close inspection the turret traverse gear detail is moulded as open when in fact it should be enclosed in a top and bottom ring.The bottom half of the ring moulding has a step which, I believe, is intended to lift the turret from the hull. However this step produces a gap between the turret and the hull that is far too pronounced. At the rear of the turret is a separate escape/ loader's hatch.

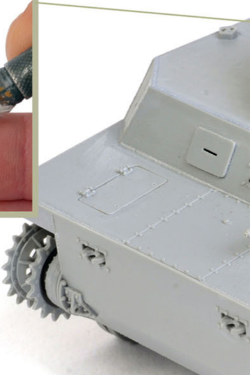
The main bi-fold turret hatch is supplied as two pieces and is very well detailed but just a little thick. That being said, however, I don't think plastic moulding could produce a hatch in a scale thickness as these hatches were incredibly thin on the real vehicle. There are separate grab handles for the hatch and the turret mounding in particular features subtle weld seams. The grab handles are, in my view, a little overly thick and would be best replaced with thin wire bent to shape. The gun breech and associated hardware is worth mentioning as it is the best rendered example of this assembly I have seen in any scale. The gun barrel, for example, has a wonderful taper that is so good a replacement barrel would be quite unecessary. The machine guns supplied are equally well done and are a marvel see. The kit is supplied with a small photo etched fret that includes items like the muffler guard and road wheel inserts. Most of this is well done but I feel the muffler guard in particular was a tad over scale. The markings include two choices.

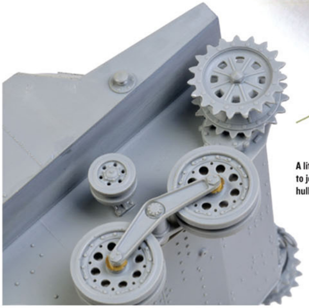
The model is a first class effort. I would be tempted to say this may well be the best rendition of any Japanese tank I have encountered in 1:35 scale. Overall, the kit is a credit to both Dragon (for having the guts to release it) and the designers, as it is accurate in shape and a pleasure to build. The variety of options included is very welcome too. The hatches can be modelled in the either opened or closed position, as can the viewing ports in the turret. Plastic armour kits don't come much better that this.



The author replaced the kit supplied engine screen with one he cobbled together using a Voyager "toma screen" from an E-10 upgrade and a 10 thou plastic strip frame.

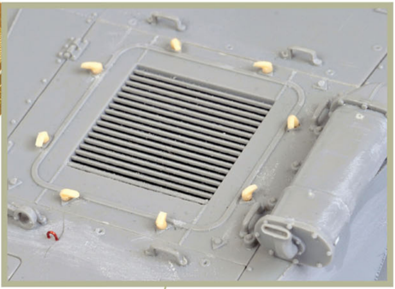
The kit is provided with options a plenty. In this view the author is blending in the opened viewing port to the inside of the turret.



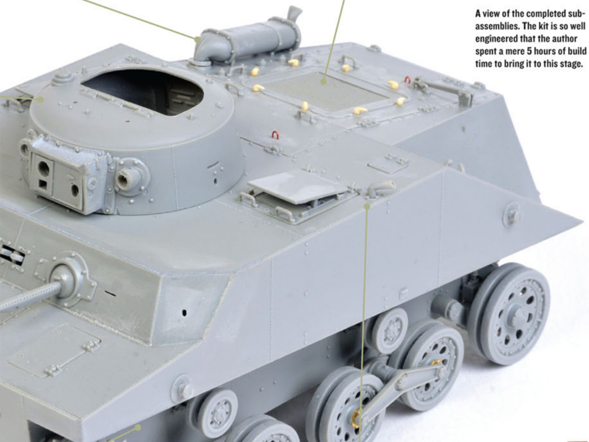


A little filler was required to join the upper and lower hulls together.

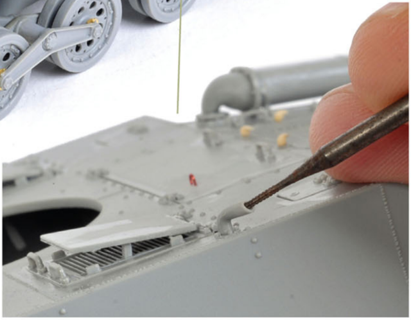
The "toma screens" from the voyager E-10 upgrade used to fabricate the muffler guard.



The kit does benefit from some minor detailing in this view. The water breathing stack clips are clearly evident.



A view of the completed sub-assemblies. The kit is so well engineered that the author spent a mere 5 hours of build time to bring it to this stage.



The engine breather pipe being opened up for a more scale like appearance.

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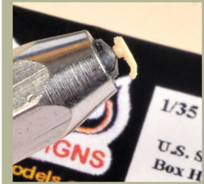
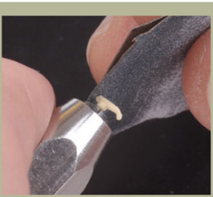
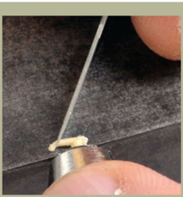


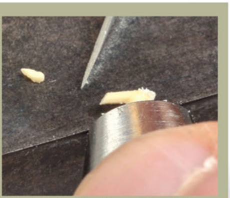
In this sequence of photos, the author demonstrates how he modified the Tiger Model Designs US Sponson Box Handles to produce the distinctive clips at the rear of the vehicle.



Each handle is gripped in a pin vice and sanded.



A metal jeweller's cutting block is a handy tool.



A sharp hobby blade is used to cut off the end of the handle at the appropriate angle.

THE BUILD

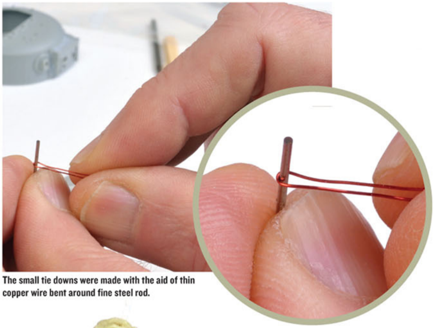
Building this model was incredibly pain free, so much so that the build itself lasted a mere six hours in two three hour sessions. The engineering of the parts is almost flawless and they go together with almost no filler. This I believe is a major achievement on Dragon's part. One area that does need attention however is the front plate that attaches to the main hull moulding. Careful filling of the mating surfaces was required because when you sand the gaps you will inevitably have to remove most of the fine weld detail. I replaced this lost weld detail by masking the weld lines in the negative form and filling the spaces in between the masks with Tamiya's Liquid Surface Primer. When the putty had formed a skin, I used a hobby knife blade in a downward motion (to give the weld bead a texture) and mimic what was on the kit. The masking tape was then removed to produce a near perfect weld bead.

TRACK ASSEMBLY

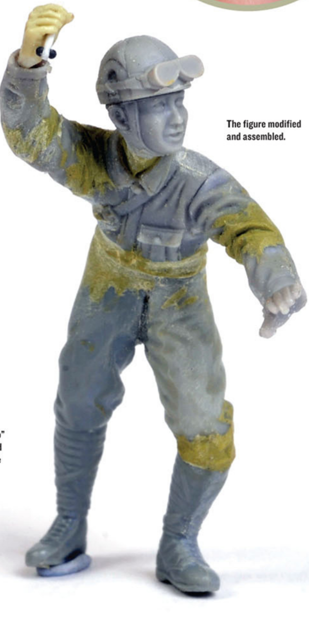
The next step was to assemble the bogie units but not glue them to the hull. I tend to do this on almost all my builds as it just makes the painting process that much easier.

When these units had been assembled I noted that the characteristic boomerang shaped bogie assemblies were a tad too sharp at the apex I rounded them out by sanding them on the top of the apex. I also thinned out the lip a little as I also felt this was a little thick. I then tacked them to the hull with BluTack.

As outlined in my opening comments, I had obtained the Cyber Hobby track set for this vehicle. When opening the box I was greeted with 208 individual tracks The tracks are moulded in a slightly different grey colour with the darker grey units intended for the left hand side while the lighter grey right. The tracks are wonderful but I had noted from my reference sources the opening on the track end was a little too narrow in diameter. I opened them up with the aid of an appropriate diameter drill. The tracks are non-workable and fairly time consuming. I glued the bottom rung of the tracks first and tacked them in place; the top rung was done in three pieces, ensuring the correct degree of sag was obtained. This process can be (and was) fairly tedious, but with patience a fairly good result was achieved, Dragon has made the rear idler movable on the horizontal axis and, as a



The small tie downs were made with the aid of thin copper wire bent around fine steel rod.



The figure modified and assembled.

resin kit scale 1/35
RM35010
1/35 レジン製組立キット
日本軍 戦車兵
あぐら座りセット(2体入り)
Japanese Army Tank crew at rest No.1 (2 figures)
Taisho

The superb "Taisho" figure set was used as the basis for the figure conversion.

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1:35 scale Magic Track for IJN Type 2 (Ka-Mi) Amphibious Tank
Magic Track
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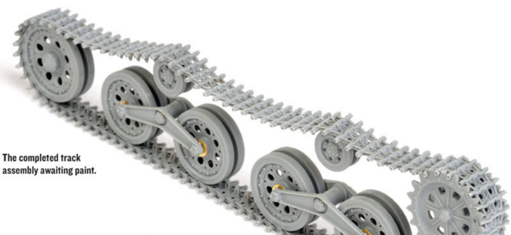
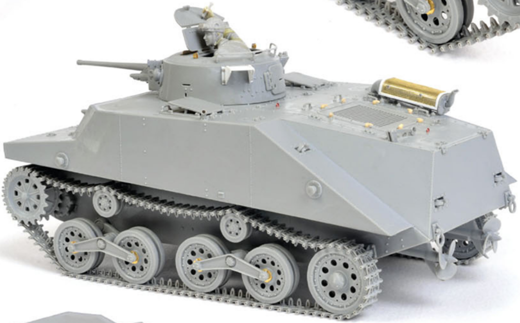
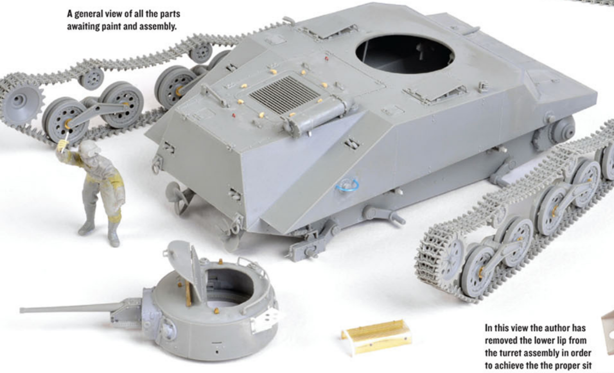
The CyberHobby track set was used in this build and is in reality the only viable option to obtain track sag. Another real bonus is that they are outstanding in both their detail and ease of assembly.



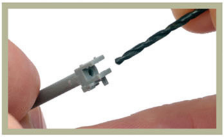
The completed track assembly awaiting paint.



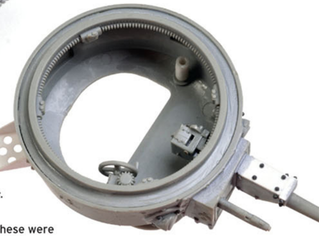
In this view the author displays the model in its unpainted form. The track assembly is only press fitted into place and was painted separately.



A general view of all the parts awaiting paint and assembly.



The gun breech being opened up with the aid of a drill.



In this view the author has removed the lower lip from the turret assembly in order to achieve the proper sit of the turret as outline in the text.

result, the last link may be glued directly on to the idler and moved to accommodate the track links needed to attach the bottom and top rung of tracks. In total, I spent about as much time on the assembly of the tracks as putting the vehicle together. At any rate, the process was complete after a few sittings. The tracks, when complete, are extremely fragile and, as I was going to paint and weather them, I thought that the best course of action was to glue the entire assembly and set them aside.

HULL ASSEMBLY AND A LITTLE DETAILING

I turned my attention to the final assembly of the hull. The Dragon hull is a wonderful piece of moulding but can benefit from a few additions. I noted from my observations of the rear engine accesses plate that Dragon had seen fit to mould the clips to attach the water breathing stack as solid oblong shapes. On the real vehicle these were more like an "L" shaped clip. Looking for a suitable replacement for these, I came across a set from Tiger models designs (item 353005). These were US Sponson Box Handles. With modification, I believed that I could fabricate a suitable replacement. I firstly cut a handle from the resin casting block and placed it in a pin vice. The rear knob of the handle was removed using sandpaper. I then placed the handle on a jeweller's metal block and cut away the front end of the handle at a 45 degree angle. With the aid of sandpaper I then profiled the clip to shape. On the rear of the vehicle there are two "C" shaped tie downs that have been moulded as solid shapes. I removed these and replaced them with .25 copper wire formed around a piece of metal wire of suitable dimensions.

Dragon has included a photo-etched muffler shield that, on first glance, looks to be perfectly adequate, but on close inspection of the real cover I noted that the Dragon part was a little heavy in its execution. I looked around for a finer etched screen and found one ▶

in a Voyager update set for the German E-10. I cut the screen from the Voyager set using the Dragon item as a template. I then super glued a 10 thou plastic strip around the exterior of the screen and bent it to the required "C" shape to conform to the muffler itself.

The last modification to the hull was to define the two large propellers at the rear of the hull The shape of these items is fine but the blades are a little thick on their leading edges. I thinned down the leading edge of each propeller blade with the aid of sandpaper.

THE TURRET, LOST PARTS AND FIGURE PLACEMENT

Don't you just hate when you lose parts only to find them after the build is completed?

Well, this is what happened to me on this build. For the life of me (and after checking the floor, the bench and the bloody vacuum cleaner bag) I just couldn't find the parts! Not only was one of the clips on the front of the hull missing but the radio antenna mount on the side of the turret had disappeared. After much soul searching I fabricated a new mount from plastic card.

I also noted that the turret sat a little too high on the hull. Part of the problem I believe is either the hull mounting hole is too narrow in diameter or the step in the turret ring was too tall. I elected to file away the step to obtain a better (and closer) sit of the turret to the hull.

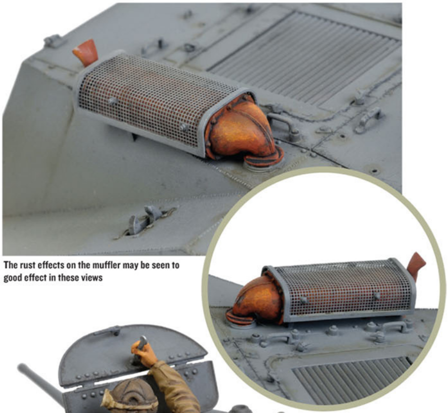
On my example of this kit the rear grab handle was broken. I super glued it together and thinned it down with the aid of sandpaper and a file to give the impression of it being finer, A better solution, would have been replace this, and all the grab handles really, with a suitable diameter wire bent to shape.

I wanted a quick build with this piece and decided that a figure would go a long way towards hiding most of the interior that I really didn't want to detail, although that being said, I did drill out the gun breech and added a few nick knacks to the turret interior, but none of those can be seen on the final configuration. The figure is an amalgam (most of my figures are) of the upper half of the simply outstanding Taisho Japanese Army Tank Crew at Rest (item Rm35010) figure and a Dragon lower half from their Japanese infantry set. The arms were cut to suit the pose of the commander closing the "bi-fold" crew access hatch. It should be noted here that the Taisho range of Japanese figure sets is simply the best available Japanese tank crew available today. The facial and uniform detail are wonderful in their execution.

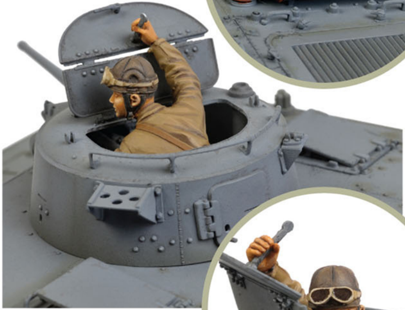
PAINTING AND WEATHERING

I had just come out of finishing my 1:48 scale T-34 (see issue 64) and wanted an easy model to paint next. This model seemed to fit the bill - simple overall scheme and lightly weathered. From the available photos I had on hand it seemed that most (if not all) of the Ka-Mi tanks were lightly weathered. I started with the track assembly first. I sprayed the entire assembly Tamiya X-1 enamel gloss black with the aim of producing a sheen on the tracks themselves. When the black was dry I lightly sprayed two coats of Alcad II Dark Aluminium on the tracks only. This produced a lovely metal finish that I was very pleased with. I then sprayed Tamiya XF-75 LNG Grey lightened with Tamiya XF-2 (White) and mixed in a ratio of 70 percent thinner, 30 percent paint using a few passes to achieve a solid base coat. Care was taken here as I didn't want any paint on my now metal looking tracks. The next step was to use the same mix to paint the hull and turret. I then "rain streaked" the hull sides with straight XF-63 thinned in an 85 percent thinner and 15 percent paint to give the model a very subtle weathering and paint fade effect. I generally like to use this effect on solid colour subjects as it breaks up the finish of a single colour subjects and makes them a little more interesting to look at.

I was impressed with the artwork in the Tank Power range of books. I wanted to replicate the "tide marks" on the side hull that I had admired on the side profile of this book. I mixed equal parts of Tamiya XF-73 Dark Green and Mr. Hobby H-48 Field Grey; this had a greenish tinge that I was after. The mix was diluted with a 70% thinner mix. The lower half was pained in this mix in slow and deliberate stages. I liked the effect and as a result I added a little black to the mix and did the same to the lower half of the turret and hull front plate and recesses on the top of the hull. I then used the a mix of Tamiya XF-49 (Khaki) lightened with Tamiya XF-2 (White) thinned to a ratio of about 90 percent thinner to 10 percent paint This mix was "misted" on in slow and deliberate coatings with most on the running gear and less toward the top. The tracks were "mist" coated with a mix of 90 percent thinner and 10 percent Tamiya flat black and backed up with a heavy wash of a very thin mix of Winsor & Newton Lamp Black and Abteilung

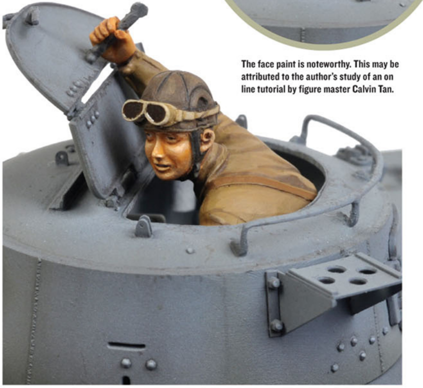


The rust effects on the muffler may be seen to good effect in these views

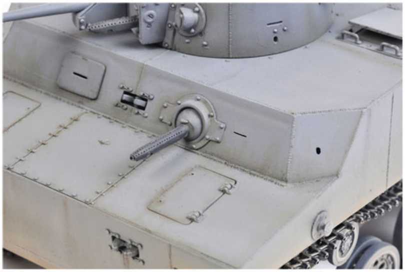


The author elected to paint the inside of the bi-fold hatch the same camouflage colour as the hull, as some of his reference photos indicated this to be the case. Note the subtle weathering on the inside of the hatch and turret sides.

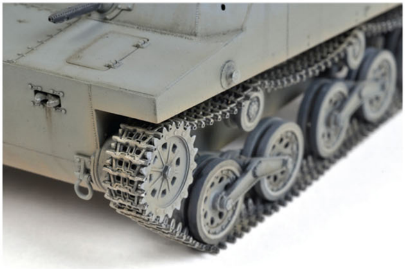
The face paint is noteworthy. This may be attributed to the author's study of an on line tutorial by figure master Calvin Tan.



A close up of the tank commander. Note how the author has rendered the hand gripping the bi-fold hatch handle and the subtle weathering on the lower half of the turret.



The front plate has also been subtly weathered with a mix of Mr. Hobby H-48 Field Grey



The subtle weathering on the track assembly may be seen to good advantage in this photo.

502 Industrial Earth ABT090 oil paints making sure all of the recesses were coated.

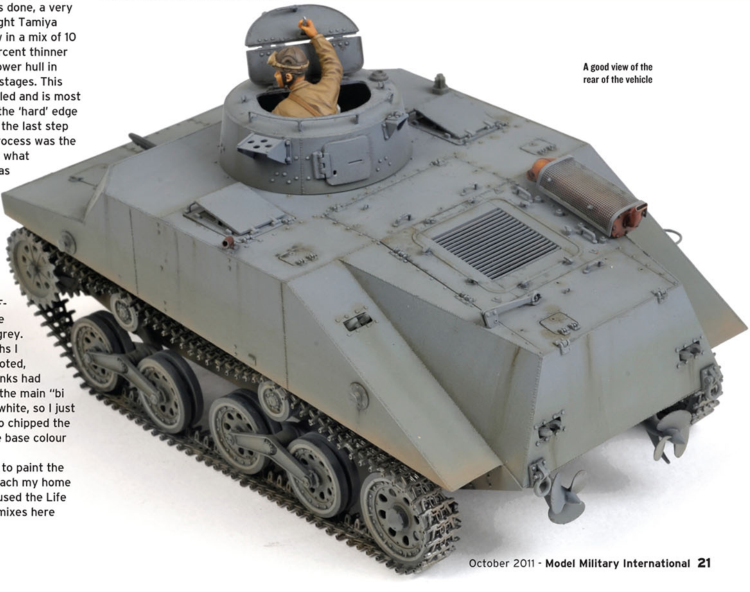
The last step was to apply very small amounts of mud from the Tamiya "Mud Weathering Stick" to the centre of each track link and a little on the back with the aid of a toothpick. I then hand painted the rubber portion of the road wheels on the track assembly. The entire lower hull was then given an oil wash with Abteilung 502 Industrial Earth ABT090 mixed with AS Art Spectrum Odourless Solvent (which is just odourless turpentine). The road wheels were then lightly dry brushed with a mix of Humbrol white and wood brown with a greater leaning toward white. When this was done, a very thin "glaze" of straight Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow in a mix of 10 percent paint 90 percent thinner was applied to the lower hull in slow and deliberate stages. This glaze can be controlled and is most effective for taking the 'hard' edge off the dry brushing the last step of the weathering process was the chipping process (or what has been described as "micro chipping). My main aim was to be subtle and have all the chips in scale. I then sprayed the inside of the turret an off white by mixing Tamiya XF-2 (White) with a little Tamiya XF-75 LNG grey. From the photographs I had on hand, I had noted, that not all of the tanks had the inner portion of the main "bi fold" hatch painted white, so I just weathered and micro chipped the inner surfaces in the base colour of Grey.

The last step was to paint the muffler and then attach my home made guard. I have used the Life Color range of rust mixes here and was most impressed, with firstly the colour and secondly the density of the paint. When the muffler was painted and dried I attached my previously grey painted guard. The entire model was then rain streaked with a mix of Industrial Earth ABT090 and Abteilung 502 Faded Grey ABT100 mixed with AS Art Spectrum Odorless Solvent. The model was more or less complete with only the flat coat to be sprayed on. I used Vallejo Matt Varnish "520" which I find very easy to use and produces a dead flat finish.

I must confess that I do struggle with painting figures, moreso now, as I have all but abandoned my usual Humbrol paint method. This was mainly due to the change in the paint consistency of the paint. I have struggled with the application of Vallejo range of paints (with faces in particular). This all changed after reading an on line tutorial by the highly talented Calvin Tan, This tutorial came as a revelation to me and made the understanding of painting a face with the Vallejo Range that much easier, the tutorial can be found on his site and is http://zyclyon.blogspot.com/search/label/SAF%20Figure%20Commissions

I basically followed what Mr. Tan has done for painting the figure on my model. I did, however, change his method slightly and used less contrast and no glaze. ▶

> **"I would be tempted to say this may well be the best rendition of any Japanese tank I have encountered in 1:35 scale..."**



A good view of the rear of the vehicle

The author has managed to apply three distinct colours on one canvas to produce a subtly weathered vehicle.

SELF-CRITICISM

I am relatively pleased with this model. The hand painting of the figure also really surprised me. I think, I may be getting the hang of the Vallejo paint range in terms of face painting The subtle tidemarks on the hull also surprised me as I like the look of the finished product. A harsh critic may say they are not correct (and they would probably be right) but nevertheless I like the effect.

The model, however, needs something else to lift it (no zing factor, dude) but alas I ran out of time to do more.

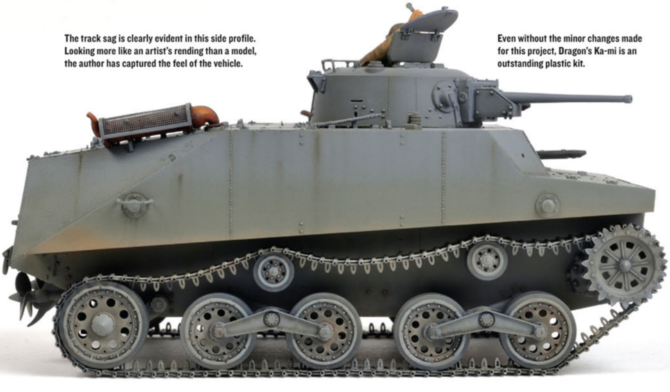
CONCLUSION

This new Dragon kit has few if any flaws. It was both a pleasure to build (requiring almost no filler at all) and a joy to complete (due to the low parts count). I can recommend this kit to anyone and indeed, any skill level.

I for one will buy another when it is released with the floats. ■

The amphibious subject offered some interesting painting and weathering opportunities.

The green tinge of the tide marks can be seen in this view. Note also the subtle weathering effects on the rear of the vehicle.



The track sag is clearly evident in this side profile. Looking more like an artist's rending than a model, the author has captured the feel of the vehicle.

Even without the minor changes made for this project, Dragon's Ka-mi is an outstanding plastic kit.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 scale Type 2 (Ka-Mi) Japanese Amphibious Tank Kit No. 6678

Paints Used

Tamiya XF-49 Khaki, Tamiya XF-2 White, Tamiya XF-2 Black, Tamiya X-1 Gloss Black, Tamiya XF-52 Flat Earth, Tamiya XF-75 LNG Grey, Tamiya XF-73 Dark Green, Mr. Hobby H-48 Field Grey, Alcad II Dark Aluminum, Life Color Rust (base color) UA 702, Life Color Rust (Dark Shadow) UA 701, Life Color Rust (Light Shadow 1) UA 703, Life Color Rust (Light Shadow 2) UA 70, Humbrol Metal Coat "27004" Gun metal, Humbrol Grey "Met 53", Humbrol Matt White "34", Humbrol Wood Brown "62", Humbrol Sand "63", Vallejo Silver "848", Vallejo Brown "872", Vallejo Red "031", Vallejo Orange Brown "131", Vallejo Sunny Skin tone "020", Vallejo Flat Flesh "018", Vallejo Golden Brown "126", Vallejo Ochre Brown "127", Vallejo Flat Earth"143", Vallejo German black Brown "150", Vallejo Matt Varnish "520", Vallejo Diluant Thinner

Weathering Materials

Tamiya Weathering stick item "87081", AS Art Spectrum Odorless Solvent (which is just odorless turpentine), Windsor & Newton Burnt Umber, Windsor & Newton Lamp Black, Abteilung 502 Industrial Earth ABT090, Abteilung 502 Faded Grey ABT100

Tools Used

Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set, Small Shop Brass Assist Roller set Mk Mc, Small Shop Hold and Fold, Jo Sonjas Brush /Soap and Conditioner, Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer

After Market

Cyber Hobby Magic tracks for the Ka-Mi Amphibious Tank. (3888)
Taisho Japanese Army Tank Crew at Rest. (Rm35010)

References

Ground Power 1996 Japanese Combat Vehicles of WWII (pages 105-110)
Osprey Publishing Japanese Tanks 1939-45 ISBN 978-1-84603-091-8
Ground Power Aug 2009 ISBN 4910135010897
Osprey Publishing The Japanese Army 1942-45 ISBN 1-84176-354-3
Imperial Japanese Army and Navy Uniforms and Equipment ISBN 4-87090-000-2
Concord Publications Tank Battles of the Pacific War 1941-1945 Isbn 962-361-607-4
Tank Power Vol s 3 and 5 by AJ press
Allied and Axis issue 6 (pages 18-24)

✓ Excellent fit; high quality moulding; intriguing subject.

✗ Some extra interior detail would have been nice.

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- HobbyBoss's 1:48 F-14A Tomcat by Steve A. Evans
- The Revell/Hasegawa 1:32 Ju 87D with the Big ED set added by Aleksandra Pocuc
- John 'Tigger' Wilkes builds the new 1:32 Il-2 Stormovik from HobbyBoss
- HobbyBoss 1:72 Rafale C by Alan Price
- We test the new Evolution CRplus air-brush from Harder & Steenbeck

and much more...

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TANKFEST 2011
AN ASSAULT ON YOUR SENSES

Ade Pitman experiences Tankfest 2011 first hand

Where better to hold an annual celebration of all things armoured than the world-class home of the tank? Such is 'Tankfest', at the Tank Museum, Bovington, Dorset. An event with a title that leaves you in no doubt what to expect.

Ever since the first tanks lumbered their way across the trenches of France during the First World War, their presence has been felt on the battlefield in more ways than one. There aren't many places where you can get so close to so much armour in action as Tankfest.

These metal monsters truly assault all of your senses as they thunder around the arena. It is no cliché to say that the ground physically trembles as 50-plus tonnes of armour rumbles past with a defending tone roaring from its exhaust.

Even your sense of smell is assailed by these behemoths, as you are reminded of the difference between diesel engines and the fumes of high-powered petrol engines.

Held annually, Tankfest 2011 took place over the weekend of 25 and 26 June, attracting around 10,000 visitors. Over fifty military vehicles displayed in the massive Kuwait Arena, so called in appreciation of a donation to the museum made by the Gulf state.

Such is the draw of Tankfest that not only the museum's collection comes out to play, but collectors and museums from around the world also take the opportunity to display their vehicles. Two of the most interesting included a privately owned Churchill tank and a Panzer IV Ausf. H that appeared to be on vacation from its normal home in the Royal Jordanian Tank Museum.

Along with the armour that kept crowds entertained throughout the day, the British Army took the opportunity to showcase a modern combined operation in the arena. This was similar to those being carried out for real in Afghanistan, involving both infantry and AFVs.

Winding the clock back to Tunisia 1943, WWII re-enactors showed how it was done 'back in the day'.

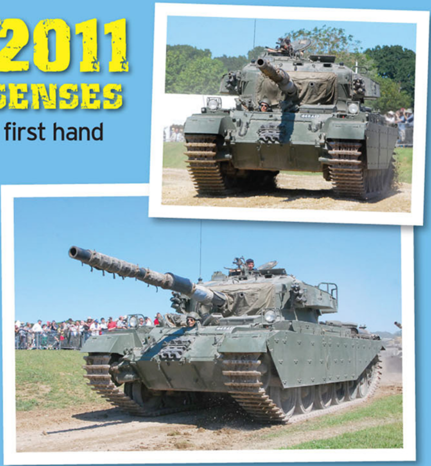
During the very realistic mock battle, the British 8th Army supported by a Valentine tank, advanced towards Rommel`s Afrika Corps, who were themselves supported by Italian troops and a Panzer III look-alike. Mortars roared, and both sides clashed to the roar of blank-firing machine guns, all partially obscured by the dust and smoke of this phoney war.

The living history field was a virtual time capsule, where visitors could wander through displays of the Blitzkrieg in France, Normandy 1944 and even explore the trenches of the Russian Front, with a T-34 dug in just in case things got nasty.

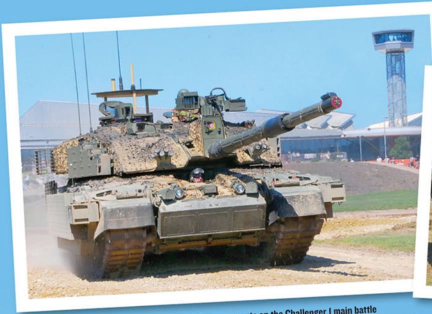
Providing a chance to get away from the action for a while, Tankfest played host to hundreds of stalls, displaying the latest military equipment for you to examine while providing the opportunity to buy older militaria and kits.

The museum halls were open throughout the event, providing visitors with the chance to browse through what is possibly the best collection of armoured fighting vehicles in the world.

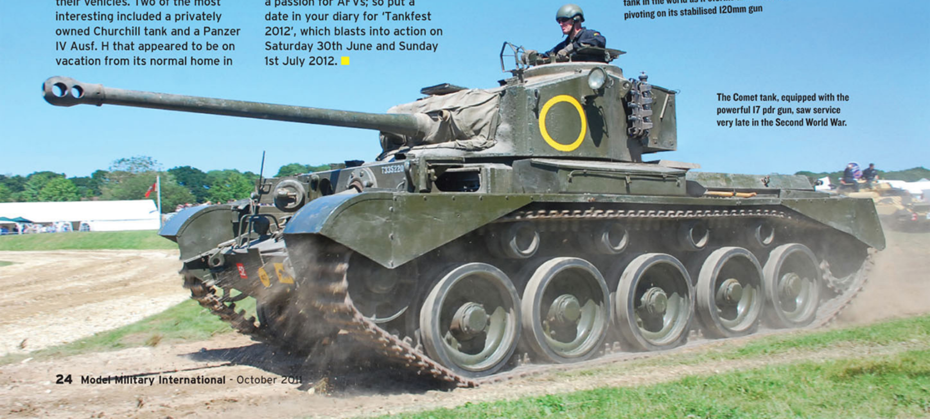
Without a doubt, Tankfest is a must-visit for anyone with a passion for AFVs; so put a date in your diary for 'Tankfest 2012', which blasts into action on Saturday 30th June and Sunday 1st July 2012. ■



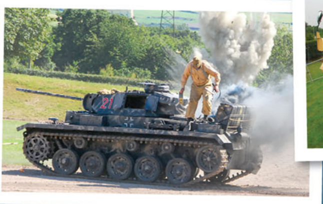
One of the most iconic British tanks of all time is the A41 Centurion. Entering service too late to see action in WWII, the Centurion soon became an export winner for the British tank industry.



With over 150 improvements on the Challenger 1 main battle tank, the Challenger 2 demonstrates why it is arguably the best tank in the world as it storms around the Kuwait Arena seemingly pivoting on its stabilised 120mm gun



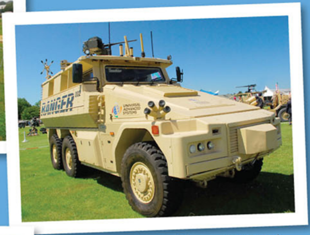
The Comet tank, equipped with the powerful 17 pdr gun, saw service very late in the Second World War.



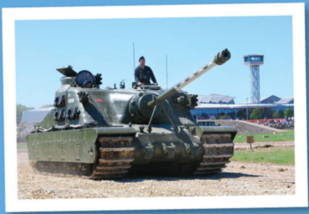
During the WWII battle re-enactment the Axis forces were supported by a look-alike Panzer III.

ARMOURED
VEHICLE RIDE
EMBARK HERE

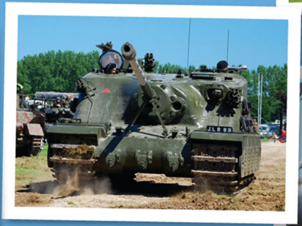
This was an invitation that couldn't be missed.



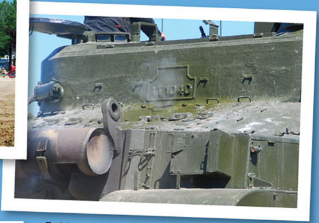
Designed and built by the private defence company Universal Engineering, the Ranger was on display although it hasn't yet been purchased by the British Government.



Highlight of the arena display was the mighty A39 Tortoise. Development of this 80 tonne monster began in 1943 in an attempt to create a tank that would be a match for German tanks of the time. It never saw service.



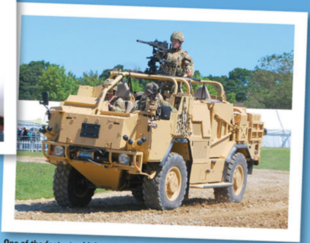
The second heaviest tank in the Museum's collection, the 80 tonne Tortoise makes an impression in the Dorset landscape.



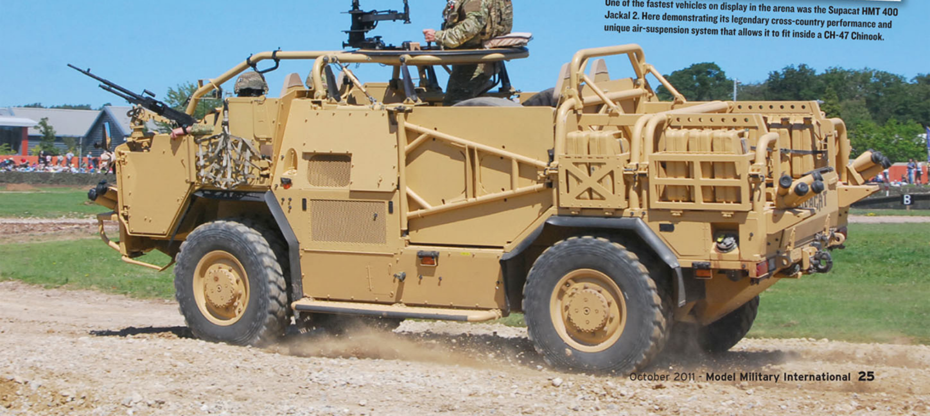
Tank Museum engineers worked hard to get the massive Tortoise ready for display in the arena, but even then it was touch and go at times due to cooling problems and water leaks.

Traffic chaos, Tankfest style!

An armoured engineering vehicle demonstrates how quickly a protective smoke screen can be created.



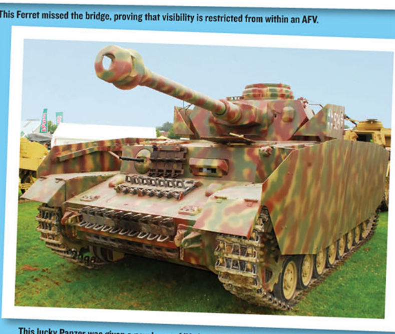
One of the fastest vehicles on display in the arena was the Supacat HMT 400 Jackal 2. Here demonstrating its legendary cross-country performance and unique air-suspension system that allows it to fit inside a CH-47 Chinook.



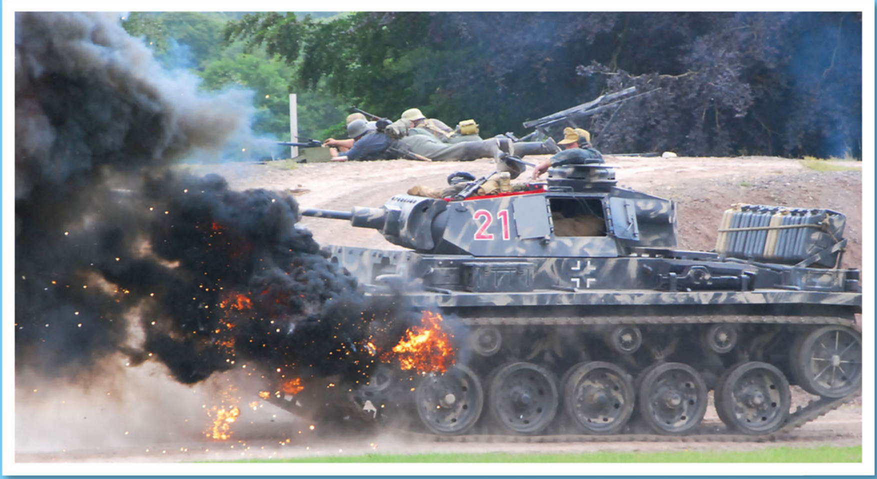
The WWII re-enactment group 'Spirit of Britain' deploy to battle in a 1937 Morris CS8 15 CWT lorry. Powered by a 3.5 litre engine, this vehicle was lovingly restored by its owner.

This Ferret missed the bridge, proving that visibility is restricted from within an AFV.

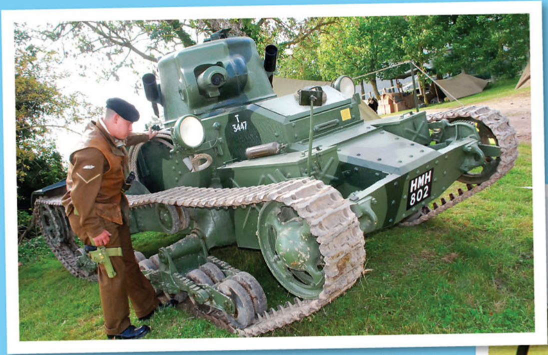
This 'easy-eight' Sherman is a world apart from the early versions.



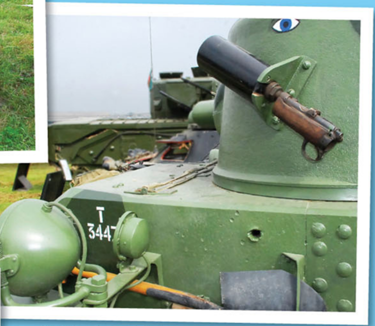
This lucky Panzer was given a new lease of life by the Royal Jordanian Tank Museum, which has restored it to working condition. It was found as a wreck on the Finnish / Russian border.



Powered by a V12 Rolls Royce Meteor multi-fuel engine, this replica Panzer III was built on a FV432 chassis. It has recently been employed in a Russian made film about the battle of Kursk.



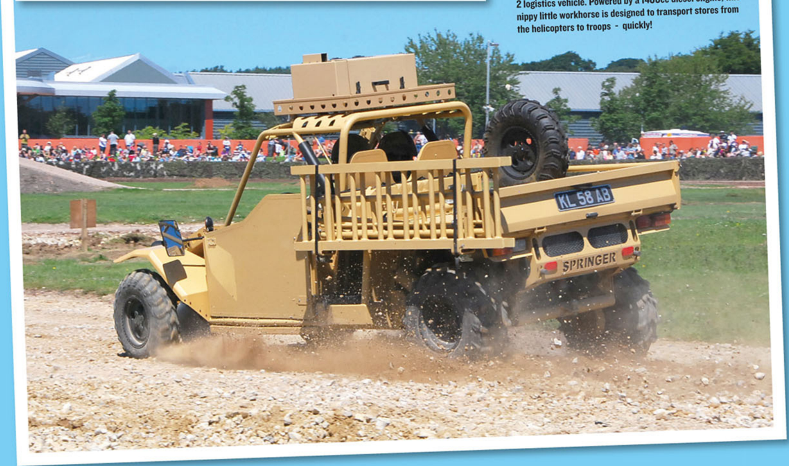
Looking like it was missing some bits, the Matilda I was designed on the principle that no tank should cost more than £5000. Entering service just prior to WWII, the Tank Infantry Mk I AII only saw action at the Battle of Arras in 1940. 139 of these little tanks were produced.



The design of the grenade discharger on the Matilda I left a lot to be desired.

Field Marshall Erwin Rommel didn't flinch during the bombardment as he was driven to inspect his re-enacting Afrika Corps.

If there was an award for having the most fun driving around the Kuwait Arena it would have been won by the Springer Mk. 2 logistics vehicle. Powered by a 1400cc diesel engine, this nippy little workhorse is designed to transport stores from the helicopters to troops - quickly!



1/35 Panzer IV/70 (A) Sd.Kfz.162/1
048
四号戦車L70 (A)
Tristar
Scale 1/35 Series 048
BONUS

Bill Watt is impressed with Tristar's new 1:35 scae Alkett Jagdpanzer IV variant.

BOX ON TRACKS

In July 1944, Alkett was directed to produce an alternative Jagdpanzer IV to the Vomag variant. The Alkett variant was simpler, and consisted of the fighting compartment bolted onto a standard Panzer IV chassis. However, it was not as effective as the Vomag version and only 278 were made.

The kit comprises 18 regular sprues, a separate one piece lower hull, two flexible sprues of rubber tyres, a sheet of stainless steel mesh to produce "Thoma" style schurtzen, a clear sprue with periscopes, vision blocks and the main gun sight, and two small photo-etched frets. A paper template to cut the mesh into the appropriate shape is also included. The small decal sheet provides options for two German vehicles and a captured Russian example.

The overall breakdown of the kit is pretty conventional - there are only so many ways to skin a Panzer IV. The lower hull is one piece, to which the suspension units are added. The engine deck, fighting compartment, mudguards and front upper hull plate are then added to the lower hull.

Each suspension unit is made up from seven parts (not including wheels), and you need to pay attention to the instructions, as there are three alternatives included for two of the parts. There are some sinkholes in the leaf springs that will be tricky to fix, and the front of the leaf springs are a little disappointing - they are rather coarsely moulded. Having said that, they are almost completely invisible on a perfectly clean tank; add a little dust and mud and no one will be the wiser. The mountings for the suspension have a beautiful cast texture. The bump stops are nicely detailed as well, consisting of a three-part assembly.

There are four return rollers, and again, pay attention, because there are a number of alternative parts. The drive sprockets are nicely detailed, as are the idlers. The idlers are the earlier pattern ones with a dished disc in the centre. Steel rimmed road wheels for the front four wheels are provided, and separate rubber tires are provided for the rubber rimmed road wheels. The tyres are impressively moulded- the brand name and numerals on them are legible. The tracks consist of individual plastic links, and are nicely detailed. Separate ice sprags have been included, which is a nice bonus.

The engine deck has separate hatches and the covers for the side vents are included on the photo-etched frets. The on vehicle equipment and tools generally look good, and the clamps to retain them utilise photo-etched handles. The fire extinguisher is vaguely disappointing - again, it seems to be less refined than the surrounding parts. The jack block has a very nice wood grain texture.

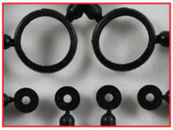
The plates have the same interlocking arrangement as the original, and delicate weld beads have been included on the side plates. The 7.5 cm PaK 42 and mount is nicely detailed, but it is the only interior detail included. The gun barrel is a one-piece plastic mould, with nicely represented rifling present in the muzzle.

The "Thoma" style schurtzen consist of the stainless steel mesh cut to shape (using the supplied paper templates), to which is attached photo-etched details. The photo-etched frets also provide camouflage loops for the upper sections of the fighting compartment.

Tristar has also included figures from their previously released "Panzer Grenadiers Volume 2". The weapons are particularly impressive. In total, there are four figures, their equipment, 1 MG-42, 3 Kar-98s, 3 MP-40s, 2 GeW 43s, one 9mm Luger and two StG 44s included.

Overall, the kit looks really good. There is plenty of detail, and the design of the kit will make it simple for those who wish to add interior detail to the fighting compartment and engine bay, while still resulting in an easy build for those who would rather build it as supplied. On the minus side, there is occasionally a small amount of flash, no interior detail, the odd prominent mould line and sink mark and a very small number of coarsely moulded parts. Having said that, they are more minor niggles than anything else. I certainly wouldn't let them stop you from acquiring the kit. ■

Thanks to Tristar for the sample www.tristar-model.com


Flexible vinyl tyres.

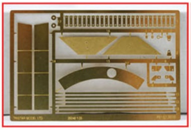
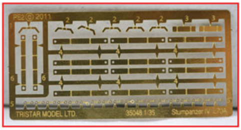
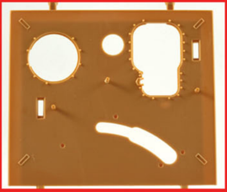
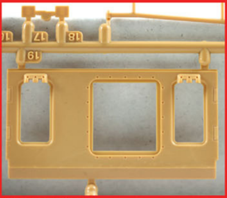


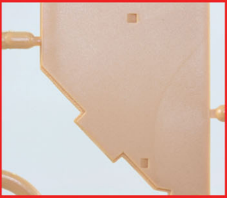
Photo-etched parts.

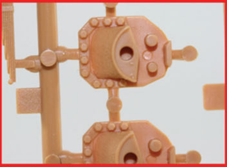


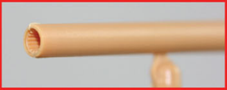
A second photo-etched fret is also included.

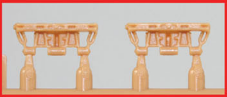

Fighting compartment roof.

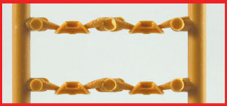

Front upper hull plate.


Side plate with weld bead detail.


Suspension mounts.


The rifled 7.5 cm gun muzzle.


Track links.


Ice sprags for the adventurous.

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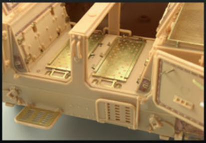
36164 Nashorn 1/35 AFV Club

36163 Nashorn ammo boxes
1/35 AFV Club

36146 BMP-3 MICV early
1/35 Trumpeter



36146 BMP-3 MICV early
1/35 Trumpeter

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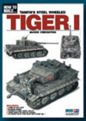

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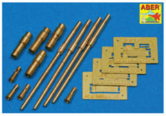

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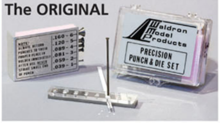

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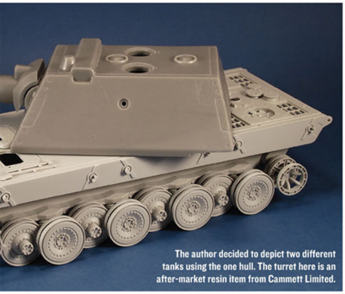
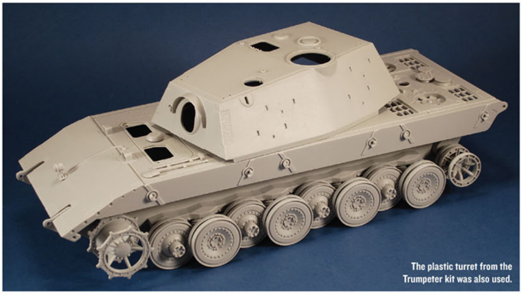
PREDATOR ON PATROL

PART ONE

José Brito gets the most out of Trumpeter's 1:35 scale E-100 by building it with the kit turret plus an alternative version from Cammett Limited.


The author decided to depict two different tanks using the one hull. The turret here is an after-market resin item from Cammett Limited.


The plastic turret from the Trumpeter kit was also used.

The E-100 project started in 1943, but by 1944 Hitler decided to cancel all super heavy tank developments. Even so, three engineers continued the process and by the end of the war, a complete tank was almost built. Only the turret was missing. When the war was over, the sole prototype was sent to England and scrapped after evaluation.

The E-100 was planned to be an alternative to the Maus. With a weight of 140 tonnes, a crew of 5 and armed with a 128mm KwK 44, it would have been an imposing predator on any battlefield.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale E-100 is a really nice kit featuring beautiful box art, good plastic with nice surface detail and clear instructions divided into 26 easy to follow steps. The decals are top quality and Trumpeter also provides a small photo-etched fret.

In my opinion the only negative point is the vinyl tracks, but it really is only my opinion as I know that some modellers prefer vinyl tracks. It is a matter of personal taste.

CONSTRUCTION

I decided to build two different versions of the E-100 on Trumpeter's hull, with the only difference being the turrets.

In addition to the Trumpeter kit turret, I also used the alternative design from Cammett. The Cammett set comprises a huge main resin casting, a resin gun barrel and some small items including hatches. This set represents the turret designed by Krupp.

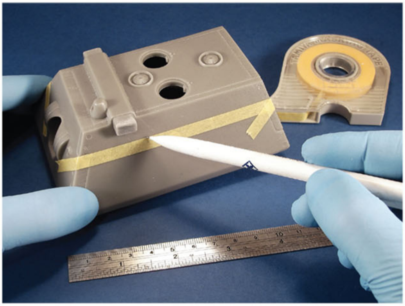
Construction of Trumpeter's 1:35 scale E-100 is very straightforward starting, as usual, with the running gear and lower hull. The model was built mainly out of the box and only small parts were added in order to improve some parts of the kit. The most noticeable additions were a number of metal parts including grab handles and lifting hooks made from fine metal wire and worked into shape with tools from The Small Shop.

The Trumpeter kit includes a small photo-etched fret that includes the ventilation grids and some minor items. All the metal parts such as the photo-etch and metal wire grab handles were glued into place with the help of Deluxe Material Roket Hot Glue. This is a super-penetrating cyano glue and works by capillary action – in other words, the glue is so thin that it is actually drawn into the tiny gap between the parts, so it just has to be run along the join to be effective. It also bonds very fast, in about 1 to 5 seconds.

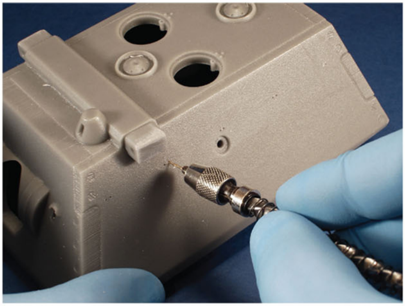
The plastic parts were glued with Deluxe Materials Plastic. When it is applied with the Deluxe Materials Pin Flow we have total control over the glue application.

In my opinion, the only negative point of the Trumpeter kit is the vinyl single piece tracks. Vinyl tracks can be a nightmare and these were no exception. Vinyl tracks are hard to work with, uncooperative to glue and most of the times hard to place in order to look convincingly. Extra care is needed in this step.

A final dry fit was made in order to check that everything was okay. I used almost no filler on this kit. The fit is awesome and I only used ▶



Positions were marked for tie-down and camouflage hook points using Tamiya masking tape as an alignment aid.



Once marked, the holes were drilled with a fine bit in a pin vise.

◀ a small amount of Mr. Surfacer 1000 in some parts to ensure that there were no hairline join seams visible.

Being a kit with such good fit and clear instructions, the construction was very straightforward and soon the model was ready for painting.

PAINTING

Before I started the paint job, the entire model was pulled apart and all the sub-assemblies prepared prior to painting. Parts like the vinyl tracks, wheels, main body and other small parts were kept separate for an easy paint job.

The first step was to prime all the sub-assemblies using Vallejo Grey Primer. The primer was airbrushed in several coats in order to keep the fine surface detail of the components. A big positive point of the Vallejo primer is that it dries really fast. The surface turns very smooth and makes it ideal for the upcoming painting process.

This model was painted entirely with Vallejo Model Air. The range of colours is huge and they are made with the modeller in mind. They boast a great finish and are easy to use. Just shake them well, add the paint to the airbrush cup, add a few drops of their thinner and we are ready to paint!

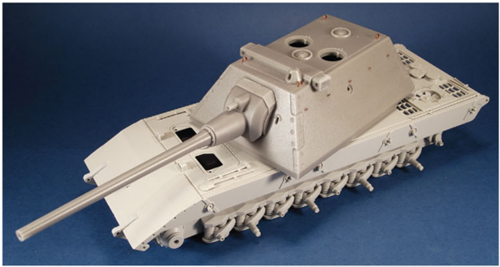
From the beginning, my idea was to build a "Frankenstein Tank", in other words a tank made up from several differently sourced components. A common sight in scenarios of total war was that the factories were destroyed and tanks had to be assembled from several sources. I therefore used several different colours. This colour variation also introduces an extra touch of interest.

Once the Vallejo primer was dry, all parts were airbrushed with Vallejo 71040. This will act like the "real" tank primer. Then once thoroughly dry several different colours were applied. The main hull and Trumpeter turret were airbrushed with Vallejo 71028 and then a light colour modulation was achieved with Vallejo 71074.

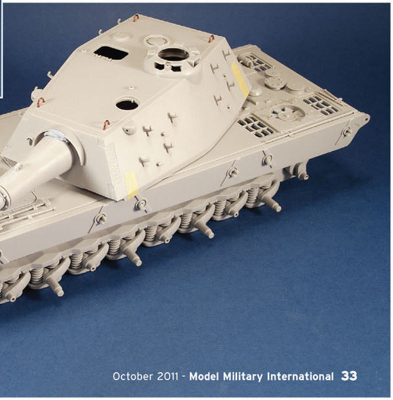
The Cammett turret was airbrushed with Vallejo 71040 and then a light colour modulation was achieved with Vallejo 71084. Next, all the other parts received identical colour treatment.

The hull sides received the same treatment as the Cammett turret. The upper and lower parts were protected with Tamiya Masking Tape and several coats of Vallejo 71040 were airbrushed. The colour modulation was achieved with ▶

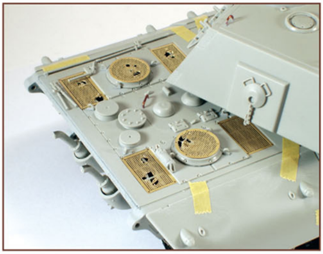
> **"From the beginning my idea was to represent a 'Frankenstein Tank', in other words a tank made from several differently sourced components..."**



Version 1 – here is the model with the completed Cammett turret.



Version 2 – and with the kit turret. It looks different now, but wait until we're through with painting and weathering!



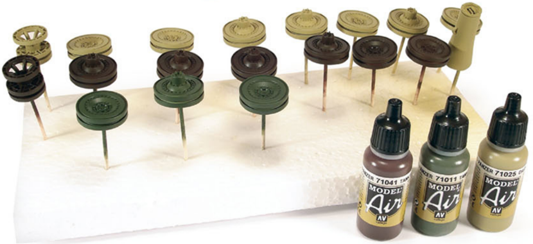
Trumpeter's photo-etched screens were altered to represent some battle damage, and wear and tear.

ACRYLIC-URETHANE
GREY PRIMER
74.601
AV
vallejo

The hull and both turrets were prepared for the paint job with a coat of Vallejo Grey Primer.

ACRYLIC-URETHANE
GREY PRIMER
74.601
AV

The wheels, drive sprockets, gun barrels and other sub-assemblies were kept separate at this stage to make painting easier.



A cacophony of camouflage colours on sticks! Vallejo paints were used exclusively for this project.

◀ Vallejo 71040.

All paints were applied in several well-diluted coats in order to keep the surface detail.

Now the basic painting process was complete and the model was ready for weathering and finishing.

WEATHERING AND FINISHING

Before I started the weathering and finishing I decided to apply some decals. The main hull received only two decals - digits representing some kind of factory reference. Once these were in place and set, I damaged them to suggest heavy usage.

I applied two German crosses and black numbers outlined in white on the Trumpeter turret. For the Cammett turret I applied two decal numbers once again to represent factory markings.

All decals were applied with the help of Vallejo decal solutions. I applied a coat of Vallejo Decal Fix in the spot where the decal would be placed then the decal is dipped in water and positioned in the desired place. Once in place, the excess water is removed with a brush or a cotton bud. Once dry, a coat of Vallejo Decal Medium is brushed over the decal and left to dry taking care not to touch it further regardless of the temptation! Vallejo Decal Medium is a decal softener and once over the decal will seem to almost destroy it, but never fear - once dry the decal will look fantastic and perfectly adapted to the surface.

When the decal softener has set and the markings conformed to the surface, a coat of Vallejo Model Air Matt Varnish was brushed over the decals to protect them.

Small inscriptions were made with the help of a very fine white pencil. These represent the chalk markings commonly seen on factories assembly lines. Once in place they needed to be smoothed with a flat brush moistened in water and when dry they were protected with Vallejo Model Air Matt Varnish airbrushed at very low pressure. This protects the ▶

ACRYLIC-URETHANE
GREY PRIMER
74.601
AV
vallejo
71040
MODEL Air

The dreaded flexible vinyl tracks, prepared with a coat of Grey Primer and Red Brown paint.

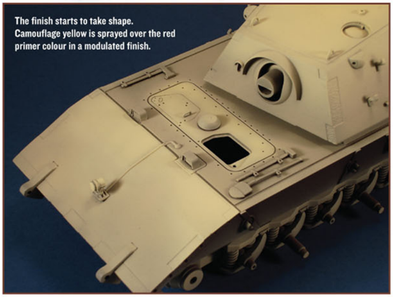
71097 GRAY
MODEL Air AV
71040
MODEL Air AV
71080 RUST
MODEL Air AV

Gun barrels were painted in different colours for maximum variety.

71040
MODEL Air AV

Vallejo 71040 delivered this rusty base colour for the E-100.

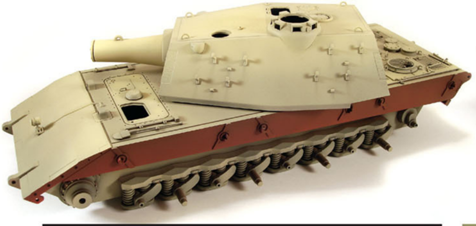
The finish starts to take shape. Camouflage yellow is sprayed over the red primer colour in a modulated finish.

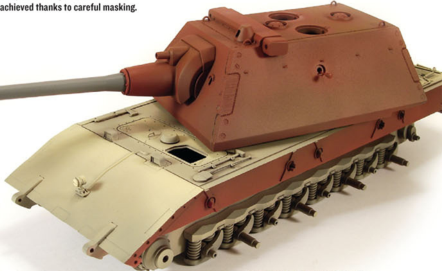


71040
MODEL Air AV
71084
MODEL Air AV

Crisp camouflage demarcation is achieved thanks to careful masking.

Primer and yellow makes for an interesting combination.





Primer red is the order of the day for the blocky resin Cammett turret. Note the heat-resistant grey finish typical of German gun barrels before camouflage painting.

BLACK DOG
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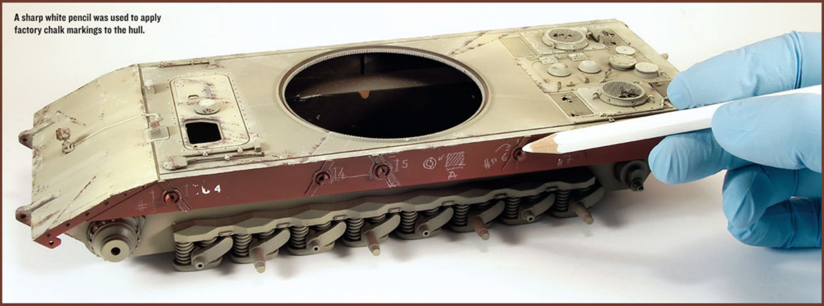
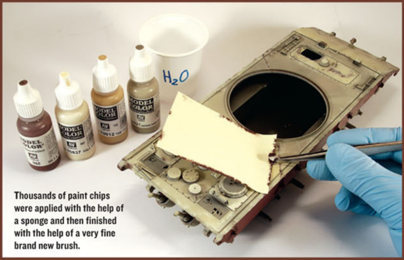
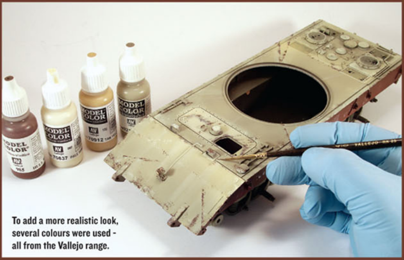


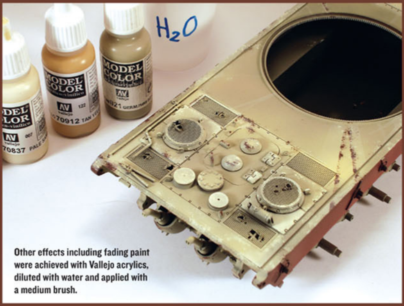
A sharp white pencil was used to apply factory chalk markings to the hull.



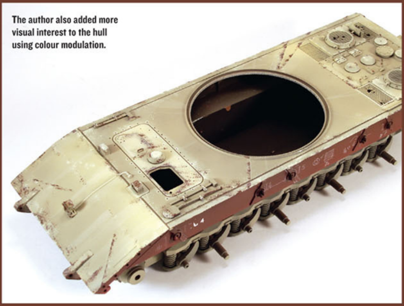
Thousands of paint chips were applied with the help of a sponge and then finished with the help of a very fine brand new brush.



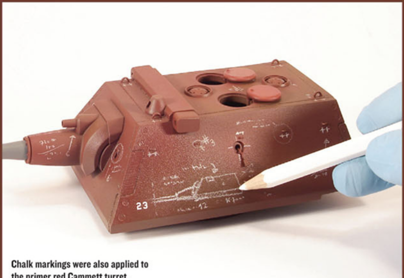
To add a more realistic look, several colours were used - all from the Vallejo range.



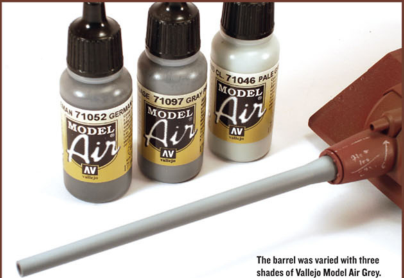
Other effects including fading paint were achieved with Vallejo acrylics, diluted with water and applied with a medium brush.



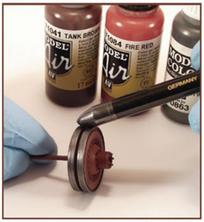
The author also added more visual interest to the hull using colour modulation.

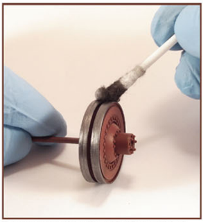


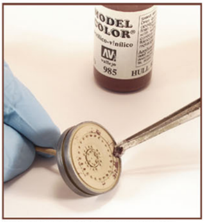
Chalk markings were also applied to the primer red Cammett turret.

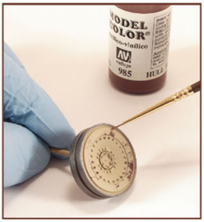


The barrel was varied with three shades of Vallejo Model Air Grey.


The wheels were treated separately from the model and the polished metal parts were painted with Vallejo acrylics, followed by a shiny finish with a pure graphite pencil.


To get a more realistic "metal look" a cotton bud was used to polish the graphite.


Paint chips were added with a sponge on the wheels too.


The wheels were finished off with further chipping with a fine brush.

◀ inscriptions from the upcoming weathering and finishing processes.

Thousands of paint chips were applied with the help of a sponge and then finished using a very fine brand new brush. To add a more realistic look, several colours were used. All of these were from the Vallejo range.

All the paint chips must be applied in logical places. Extra care is needed as it would be very easy to ruin a model during this stage. In the end, the paint chips must look natural, random and, most importantly, they must look to be the same scale as the model.

Other effects like fading paint were achieved with Vallejo acrylics heavily thinned with water and applied with a medium brush. During this process I also applied some colour modulation and add more visual interest to the model.

The wheels were treated separately from the model and the polished metal parts were painted with Vallejo acrylics. A pure graphite pencil was next pressed over the polished metal parts. To get a more realistic "metal look", a cotton bud was used to polish the graphite. The overall effect is very convincing.

The wheels received the same treatment as the rest of the model, paint chips being added with a sponge and then finished with a very fine brand new brush.

The exhaust pipes were painted using Vallejo 985 and some other small parts like tools were also painted in Vallejo colours.

Once everything was dry I applied a heavily thinned wash of Winsor & Newton oils, mixed with Winsor & Newton Sansodor (Low Odor Solvent). My mix of colours are No. 2 Burnt Sienna, No. 25 Lamp Black and N. o 35 Raw Umber. This wash was applied with more attention to the recessed parts. Once the oils were dry, small spots were treated with Vallejo Wash solutions. They were applied mainly in small recessed parts and very localised.

The next step was to apply several Vallejo Pigments in the dry and wet method. In the first method they are applied directly over the model and fixed in place with the help of Winsor & Newton Artists White Spirit. In the second method, they are applied mixed with Vallejo Glaze Medium. Vallejo Pigments are a must have in any modeller's arsenal. The range of colours is big and with the most demand modeller in mind.

Several pigments colours were used in order to achieve a more ▶

> **"Trumpeter's 1:35 scale E-100 is a really nice kit featuring beautiful box art, good plastic with nice surface detail and clear instructions divided into 26 easy to follow steps..."**

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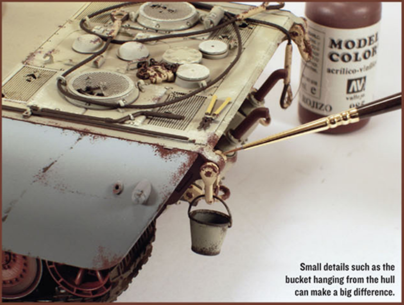
GERMANY PITT GRAPHITE

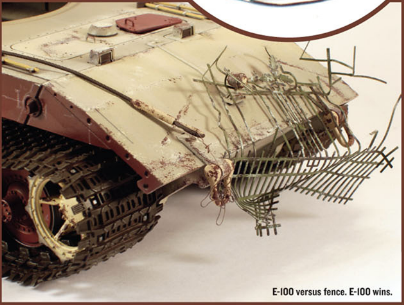
The tracks, previously painted in dark brown were also weathered with the help of a graphite pencil.

The side-mounted track guards also received the chipping treatment.

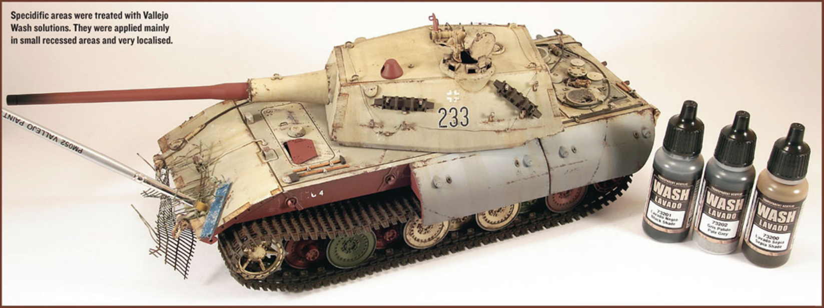
The Infra Red rangefinder adds more interest to the vehicle.


MODEL COLOR
acrilico-vallejo

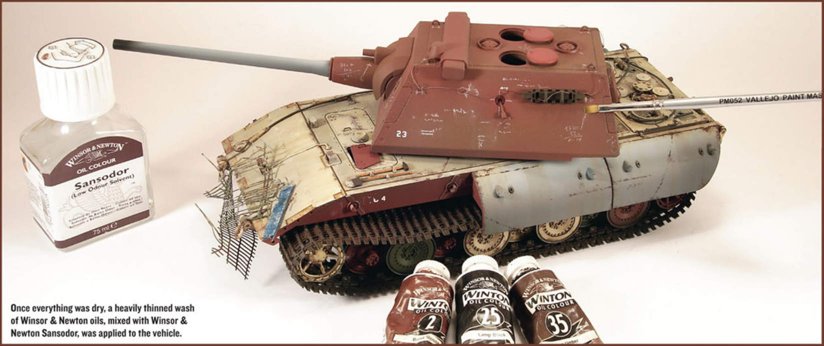
Small details such as the bucket hanging from the hull can make a big difference.



E-100 versus fence. E-100 wins.


233
PM052 VALLEJO PAINT
WASH LAVADO
WASH LAVADO
WASH LAVADO

Specidific areas were treated with Vallejo Wash solutions. They were applied mainly in small recessed areas and very localised.

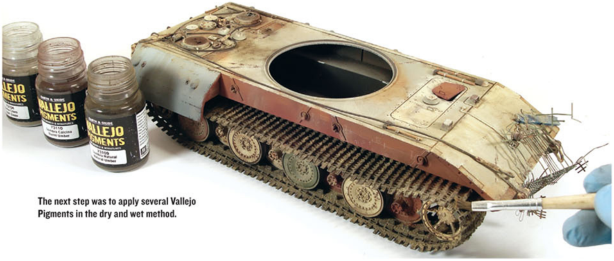

WINSOR & NEWTON
OIL COLOUR
Sansodor
(Low Odour Solvent)
75 ml
PM052 VALLEJO PAINT MAS
23
WINTON
WINTON
WINTON

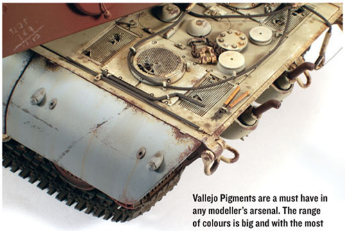
Once everything was dry, a heavily thinned wash of Winsor & Newton oils, mixed with Winsor & Newton Sansodor, was applied to the vehicle.

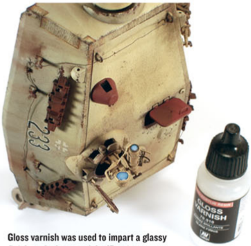
realistic look. Most of the pigments were applied using the dry method. Only a small part, under the lower hull, was treated to the wet method. I really like the look of the pigments applied in the dry method, especially on the tracks and running gear.

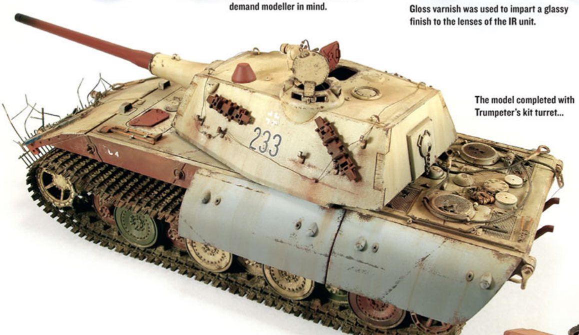
Once the pigments were in place, some of the excess was removed with the help of a medium sized brush.

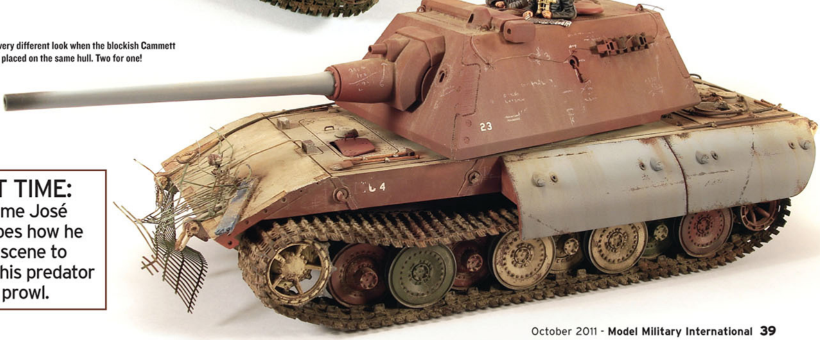
The tracks, previously painted dark brown, were also treated with a graphite pencil in order the represent some polished parts. All we have to do is pass the pencil over the desired spots. The pencil must be a soft one. This process was used because the tracks are vinyl. If they were in metal, the same finish can be achieved by passing fine sandpaper over the desired spot. ■


The next step was to apply several Vallejo Pigments in the dry and wet method.


Vallejo Pigments are a must have in any modeller's arsenal. The range of colours is big and with the most demand modeller in mind.


Gloss varnish was used to impart a glassy finish to the lenses of the IR unit.


The model completed with Trumpeter's kit turret...


...and a very different look when the blockish Cammett turret is placed on the same hull. Two for one!

Modelspec

Trumpeter 1:35 scale German E-100 Super Heavy Tank
Item No. 00384

Items used

1:35 Camett Ltd., Krupp E-100 Turret (CAMTAFV35001)
1:35 Blast Models, Tank Crew 1946 Paper Panzers (BL 35126F)
1:35 RMG Resin Models, Copper Cables for German Tiger II Tank and Jagdtiger Tank (RM033)

Materials and paints used

Hood glue, Deluxe Materials glue solutions, Heat isolation foam, Wood base, Injected plastic, Resin parts, Plastic card, Metal parts, Vallejo acrylics, Vallejo washes, Vallejo pigments, Vallejo Grey Primer, Oil colours, Graphite soft pencil

References used

Several internet sites and forums

✓ The Trumpeter E-100 is a very nice kit. The Blast figures are very original with a flawless casting.

✗ The vinyl tracks. As usual, a nightmare.

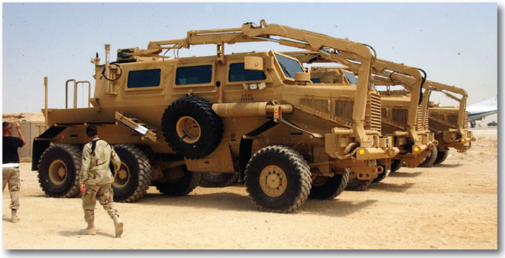
Available from

Trumpeter kits are distributed in the UK by Pocketbond Limited

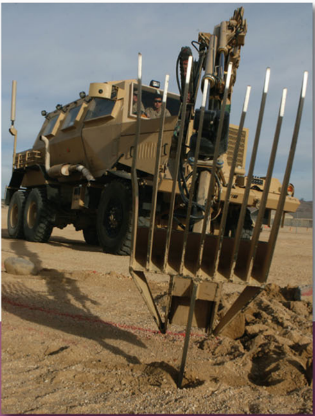
Rating ●●●●●●●◐○

NEXT TIME:

Next time José describes how he built a scene to show this predator on the prowl.



ABOVE, Right hand side view of a brand new Marine Corps Buffalo Cat III MRAP. *(U.S. Air Force photo/Senior Airman Olufemi A. Owolabi)*



RIGHT, A close up shot of the fork and ripper attachment fitted to the hydraulic arm of the Buffalo. *(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy T. Parish)*

BUFFALO
MINE PROTECTED CLEARANCE VEHICLE

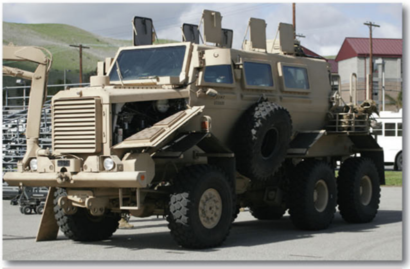
Stuart Ransley discusses the background and technical specifications of the Buffalo Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle, currently seeing service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Buffalo is a 23 ton vehicle that is used to defeat mines and improvised explosive devices. Its armoured v-hull is designed to direct the effects of a mine detonation away from the vehicle, giving the crew a greater chance of survival than they would have in a conventional wheeled vehicle. The Buffalo is used for route clearance, allowing patrols to take a closer look at suspected hazards at a distance using the vehicle's on-board systems and interrogator arm. Once it is confirmed that a mine or improvised explosive device has been found, it can be moved by the vehicle or dealt with by an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. The Buffalo is currently seeing service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

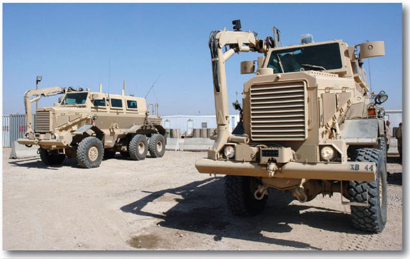
BACKGROUND

In 1999, a trials program was initiated by the US Army to determine an appropriate vehicle to serve as the Mine Protected Clearance Vehicle (MPCV) component of the Ground Standoff Minefield Detection System (GSTAMIDS) Block 0 Program. Part of the requirement of the program was that the new vehicle would have to be resistant to the effects of mines and IEDs. The South African and former Rhodesian Security Forces had developed this technology 30 years previously, so it was to South Africa that the US Army turned. Two vehicles were eventually selected for the trials. They were the Reumech OMC Casspir Mk II and the Denel-Mechem Lion II. The Casspir Mk II was provided under licence in the United States by LNY Inc, while the Lion II was provided under licence in the US by Technical Solutions Group. The Lion II was a relatively new development at the time, but the Casspir was in service with the South African Military and Police and had been sold to some 90 countries.

The Lion II based vehicle was selected by the US Army in June 2001. Technical Solutions Group began further work to refine the design, with the new vehicle being called the Buffalo. While there are visual similarities to the Casspir Mk II, the Lion II and Buffalo are separate developments. Initial contracts were awarded to Technical Solutions group on 12 September 2002 for 10 Buffalos and related training and maintenance support. These vehicles were delivered in 2003 and were immediately sent to Iraq and Afghanistan. They proved to be so successful that in May 2004 a further 21 vehicles were ordered, and 15 more were ordered in November 2004. September 2005



Left hand side view of a Buffalo shown during the 67th anniversary of the Ist Marine Division on Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 30, 2008. *(U.S. Marine Corps photo by PFC. Chad J. Pulliam)*



Front view of two Buffalo MRAPs *(photo by PFC Matthew Clifton US Dept of Defence)* saw the USMC receive 4 Buffalos and 19 more were ordered by the US Army in early 2006. By 2008, over 200 Buffalos had entered service with the US military.

In 2007, a major procurement initiative was launched to replace the unarmoured Humvees in Iraq with Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicles. This program was to be completed in 2009. Force Protection Inc. submitted variants of the Buffalo MPCV. A derivative, called the Cougar was selected as part of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) program. The Ground Stand-off Minefield Detection System Block 0 was eventually changed into a route clearance element of the MRAP program, MRAP Category III. Buffalo vehicles received a name change from MPCV to Cat III MRAP

In 2008, the US Army began testing of an improved version of the Buffalo. This was referred to as the Buffalo A2. The original Buffalo became the Buffalo A1.

DESCRIPTION

The hull of the Buffalo offers all round protection from small arms and artillery shell splinters. A bar armour kit has been developed for the Buffalo to protect the vehicle from Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs) and other shoulder fired anti-armour weapons. The Buffalo can withstand mine and IED detonations much better than conventional vehicles due to its V shaped hull. This V shape directs the mine blast away from the crew compartment and the vehicle itself. There was a reported incident in which a Buffalo suffered a rear wheel detonation of an anti-tank mine. The blast tore off a wheel and destroyed an axle on the vehicle. The crew were unharmed inside the Buffalo and the vehicle was able to be driven out of the minefield. Repairs were performed the next day and it was sent back into operation.

The Buffalo is powered by a Mack ASET AI-400 diesel engine with an Allison HD-4560P 5 speed automatic transmission. This gives the vehicle a top speed of 105 km/h.

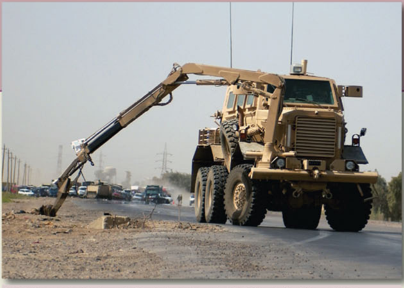
The vehicle has a crew of six - Commander, driver plus four others. The driver sits on the front left of the vehicle with the Commander on the front right. All seats in the crew compartment are fitted with four point harnesses for crew safety. It is also fitted with an air conditioning system, a necessary piece of equipment when operating in hot climates. Access to the crew compartment is via a ladder at the rear of the vehicle.

The Buffalo is fitted with a 4.9m hydraulic arm. The control panel for the arm is situated in front of the Commander's seat. The panel is fitted with a monitor that receives video images from the camera mounted on the end of the arm. This arm is fitted with a fork and ripper attachment, which allows the crew to uncover and examine any suspicious objects from the safety of the vehicle. If something is found it can be moved to one side and/or disarmed. The Buffalo is also fitted with electronic devices used to jam the frequencies used by insurgents to remotely detonate mines and IEDs

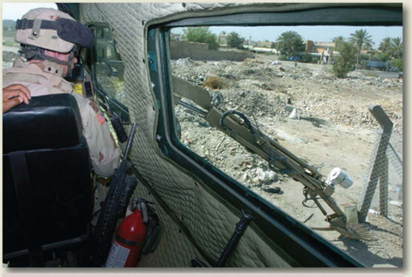
The initial concept of operations of the Ground Stand-off Minefield Detection System had the Buffalo MPCV following behind the Mine Detection Vehicle (MDV). The Buffalo would stop prior to each suspected mine marked on the road by the MDV. Once the Buffalo had stopped at a suspected mine the crew would utilise the hydraulic arm to confirm or deny the presence of a mine. If a mine was found, they would move the mine off to the side of the road for subsequent neutralization. Once the crew had completed all required actions the Buffalo would proceed to the next mine location.

USERS

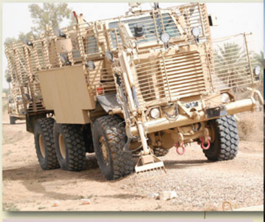
The Buffalo MRAP is currently in service with the US Army and Marines, Canada, France Italy and the UK. ■



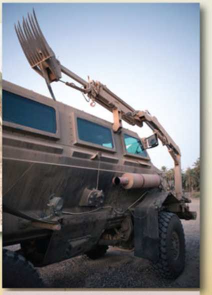
A Buffalo, searches for improvised explosive devices along Main Supply Route Tampa during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Buffalo is equipped with a jamming device that blocks frequencies insurgents use to detonate these devices. Main Supply Route Tampa is a hot spot due to high military convoy traffic travelling to and from Baghdad. *(U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Russell E. Cooley IV)*



An operator's view of the hydraulic arm in use. *(US Army Photo by Spc. Ben Brody)*



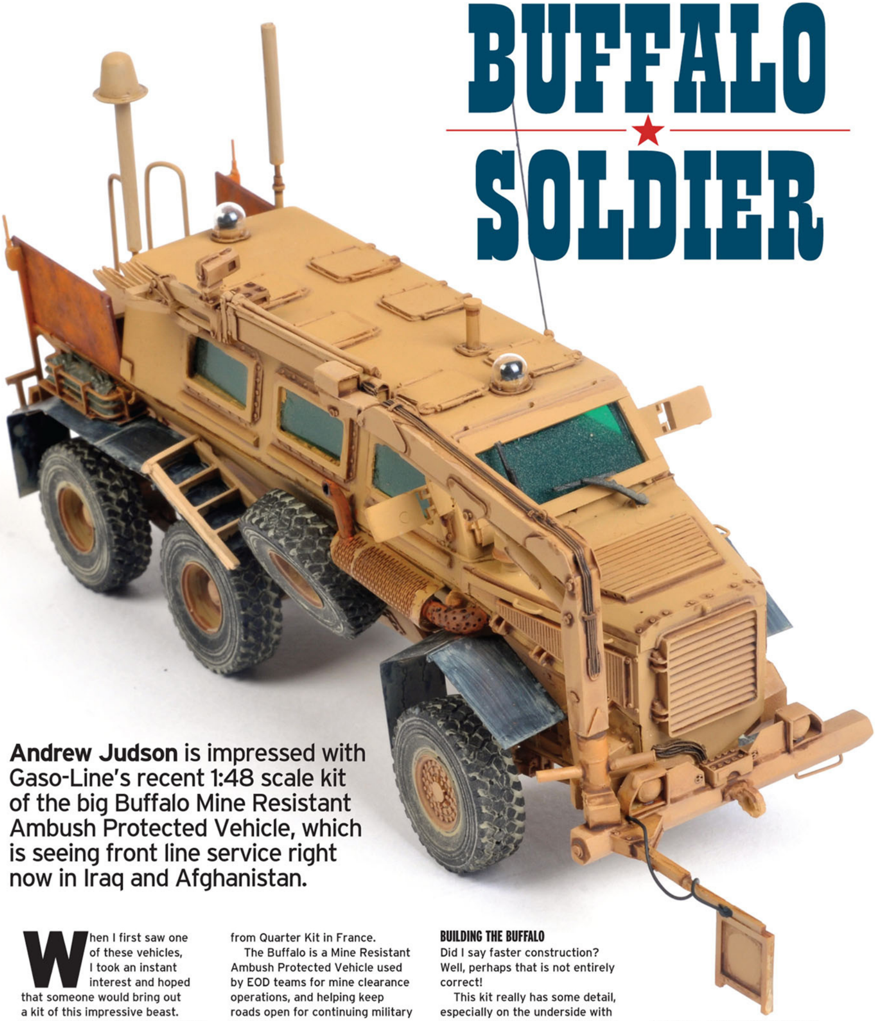
This Buffalo has been fitted with a slat armour package designed to give the vehicle protection from Rocket Propelled Grenades (RPGs). *(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tracy Knowles)*



The mechanical arm of a U.S. Marine Corps Buffalo mine-protected vehicle rests on top of the vehicle. *(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Neill A. Sevelius)*

U.S. Marines assigned to 9th Engineer Support Battalion, Ist Naval Construction Regiment use the arm of a Buffalo mine-protected vehicle to clear a hole during a route repair mission near Lake Habbaniyah, Nov. 1, 2008. *(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Sgt. James D. Wilkins)*

BUFFALO ★ SOLDIER



Andrew Judson is impressed with Gaso-Line's recent 1:48 scale kit of the big Buffalo Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle, which is seeing front line service right now in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When I first saw one of these vehicles, I took an instant interest and hoped that someone would bring out a kit of this impressive beast. Vajra Miniatures did subsequently release this vehicle in 1:35 scale but its size, complexity and, more importantly, price tag put me off for the moment. Gaso-Line then followed with a more compact and definitely more affordable Buffalo in 1:48 scale. Before I could say "Paypal", the mid-sized Gaso.Line kit was ordered and on its way from Quarter Kit in France.

The Buffalo is a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle used by EOD teams for mine clearance operations, and helping keep roads open for continuing military operations.

Gaso-Line's kit is a ripper, with plenty of detail in resin and photo-etched metal. The resin is very well cast with no warpage and requires only minimal clean up. What made me happiest though, was the lack of giant sized casting blocks, meaning faster construction.

BUILDING THE BUFFALO

Did I say faster construction? Well, perhaps that is not entirely correct!

This kit really has some detail, especially on the underside with all of its involved suspension and linkages. There is a partial interior too, and then there's the exterior, with elements like the mud guards made from etched brass, the rear ladder, requiring careful folding of brass rod and fitting the tiny etched brass steps, and the articulated arm that attaches to the front bumper including the Rhino device. Take a breath Andrew... phew!

Construction was tackled in stages - the lower hull, interior, upper hull, articulate arm. Once the sub-assemblies were together, everything was test-fitted to ensure that they all went together okay, and any modifications were made now before starting to paint. ▶

GASO.LINE
Engin de déminage Buffalo MRAP

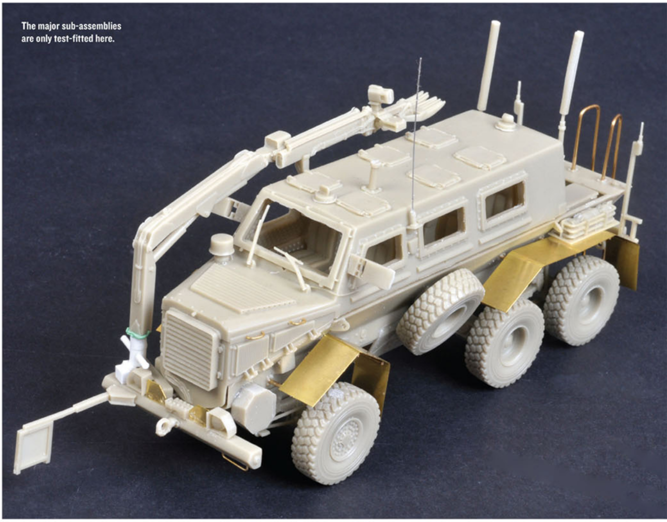
Gaso.Line's 1:48 scale Buffalo comes in a suitably sturdy cardboard box.

The upper and lower body are impressive one-piece castings.

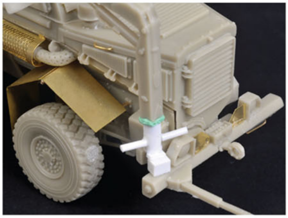
Some of the larger parts. The casting blocks for these resin parts may be seen here.

This is only a selection of the small (and smaller!) resin parts that supplement the detail of the kit.

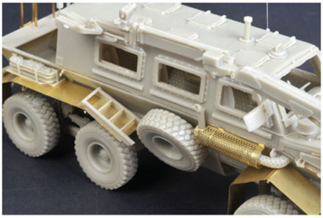
Multimedia variety is supplied in the form of photo-etched parts, clear vacform, copper wire and brass rod.



The major sub-assemblies are only test-fitted here.

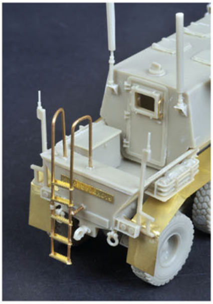


Here is the scratch built mount for the articulated arm. It looks a bit like used chewing gum, but the part is just temporarily being held in place with a green version of Blu-Tack.

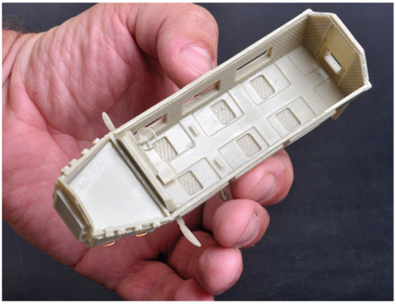


The kit might not include the kitchen sink, but it does supply a stepladder!

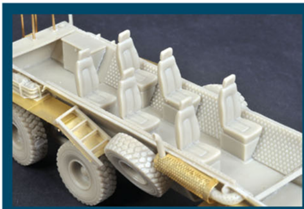
> "Gaso.Line's Buffalo MRAP is a well-detailed kit and a manageable size in 1:48 scale..."



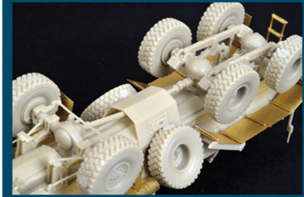
The rear vehicle stairs requires some tricky bending and folding of rod and photo-etched parts.



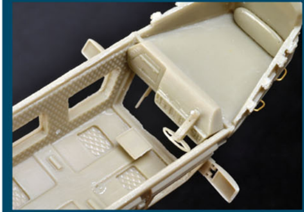
The hull parts have detail cast into the interior, including a convincing quilted texture for the cabin sides and ceiling.



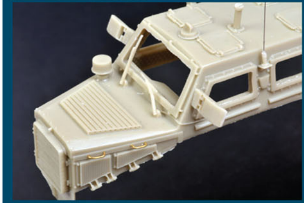
The lower hull is cast with the quited texture too. The seats have been glued in place here.



The suspension is highly detailed but is quite tricky to install and align.



Steering wheel and driver's controls are also provided by Gaso.Line.



Handles for the hood are bent from copper wire.

◄ The first area I painted was the interior. The basic colour was off-white with black seats, followed by a very light dry-brush. Next, I glued the kit-supplied green acetate sheet cut to shape into the window frames. Once done, the interior could not be seen, but at least I know it is there!

With the interior painted I assembled the two main halves of the vehicle, which went together well.

DESERT BUFFALO COLOURS

I painted all the exterior parts in Tamiya acrylic XF-59 Desert Sand as a base coat. This included the wheels and articulated arm. Once dry, I applied a filter of Mig Ochre over all the parts, allowed it to dry and then brushed an overall wash of Dark Brown from the Mig range of weathering products.

At this stage, while everything else was drying, I painted the tyres and mud flaps using Tamiya XF-69 NATO Black, and then glued the articulated arm in place.

Only at this stage did I realise that there was no mount in place, and it was not in the box. What now? Scratch build time!

Using the photos in the instructions, I was able to get enough information to make a mount out of Evergreen plastic tube, rod and plastic stock. With a touch of putty and a coat of paint, who would know?

All was then left to dry overnight. The next step was to spray Tamiya XF-59 Desert Sand mixed with XF-57 Buff over everything in a mottled patter, using my Badger Velocity airbrush. When doing this, I focused on not taking away from the washes' effects, but toning the overall finish down and also giving the paintwork a sun-faded appearance.

With the majority of paintwork done, it was time for the rest of the weathering to start with the tyres and wheels. For these I used Mig Pigment Iraq Sand mixed into a slurry with distilled water and painted into the treads and around the sidewalls. Once the slurry was applied, it was left to dry. When dry, I then dry-brushed Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black over the tread surface area and also on the sidewalls, resulting in the impression of a heavily used tyre.

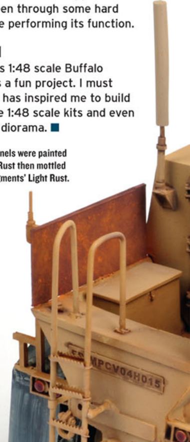
For the mud flaps I used the new AK interactive dust effect, Light Dust, toned down with a broad flat brush and Tamiya enamel thinners.

Now that the weathering was done, the last task was to install the rear blast panels. This was a field modification to give the soldiers a little extra protection. The panels were painted with Gunze Rust and then mottled with Mig Pigments' Light Rust.

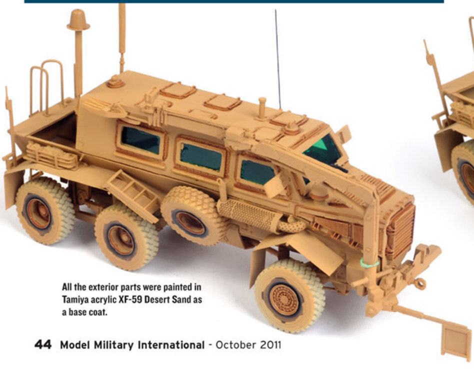
With everything finished, I was left with a Buffalo that appears to have been through some hard times while performing its function.

CONCLUSION

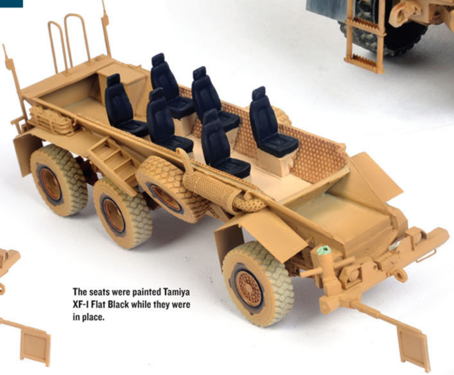
Gaso.Line's 1:48 scale Buffalo MRAP was a fun project. I must say that it has inspired me to build some more 1:48 scale kits and even a possible diorama. ■



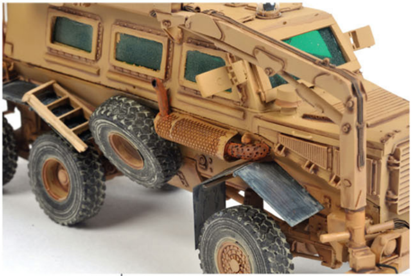
The blast panels were painted with Gunze Rust then mottled with Mig Pigments' Light Rust.



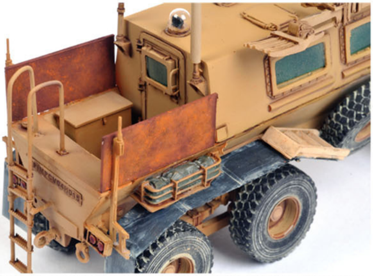
All the exterior parts were painted in Tamiya acrylic XF-59 Desert Sand as a base coat.



The seats were painted Tamiya XF-I Flat Black while they were in place.



Once dry, a filter of Ochre wash brushed over all the parts, followed by an overall wash of Dark Brown from the Mig range of weathering products.



The last task was to install the rear blast panels. This was a field modification to give the soldiers a little extra protection.

Modelspec

Gaso-Line 1:48 scale Buffalo MRAP   Kit No. GASSPEC09

Model Supplies

Glue-Zap a gap, thick
Gator Glue
Airbrush-Badger Velocity

Paints and Finishing Products

Tamiya Acrylic -
XF-59 Desert Sand, XF-57 Buff, XF-69 NATO Black
Mig Filter - Ocher for Grey
Mig Wash - Dark Brown
Mig Pigment - Iraq Sand, Light Rust
AK Interactive - Dust Effects, Light Dust

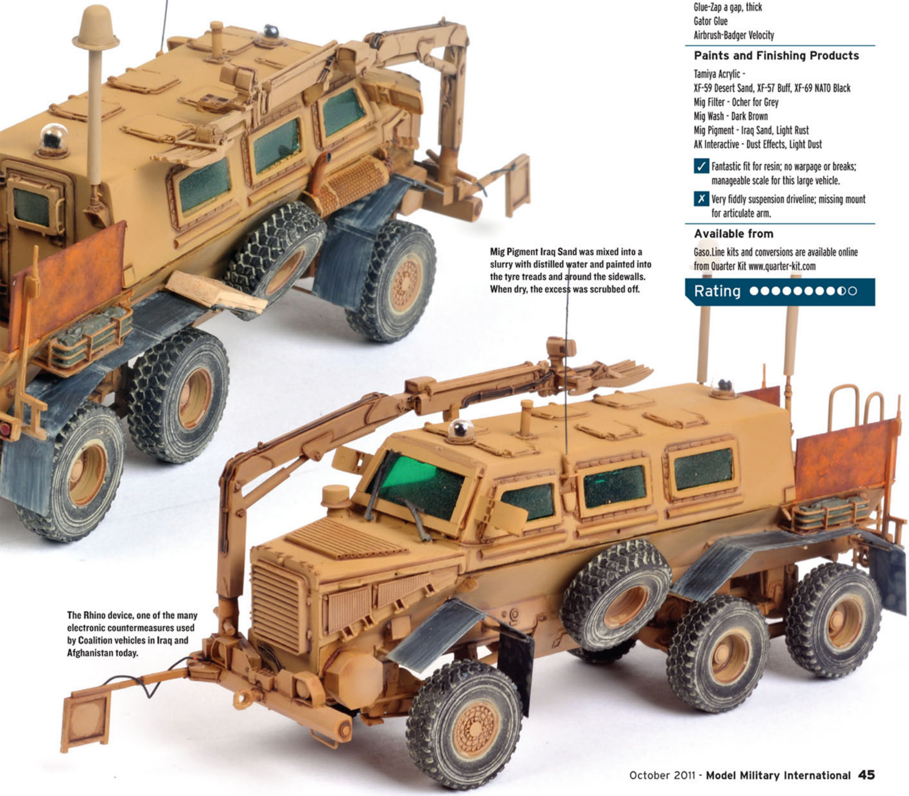
✓ Fantastic fit for resin; no warpage or breaks; manageable scale for this large vehicle.

✗ Very fiddly suspension driveline; missing mount for articulate arm.

Available from

Gaso.Line kits and conversions are available online from Quarter Kit www.quarter-kit.com

Rating ●●●●●●●●◐○



Gaso.Line's Buffalo MRAP is a well-detailed kit and a manageable size in 1:48 scale.

Mig Pigment Iraq Sand was mixed into a slurry with distilled water and painted into the tyre treads and around the sidewalls. When dry, the excess was scrubbed off.

The Rhino device, one of the many electronic countermeasures used by Coalition vehicles in Iraq and Afghanistan today.

Diary Dates

To have your event included on this page, send your details to:
Diary Dates, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane,
Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel:01525 222573·Fax:01525 222574·Email:editor@modelmilitary.com

September 3rd
Cornwall Model Show.
The annual Cornwall Model Show will be held from 10:00am to 6:30pm at St Johns Hall. Alverton Street, Penzance, Cornwall, TR18 2QR.
Traders, Competitions, Clubs.
Admission: Adult £1.50 Child £1
Contact: Arthur Johnson
ipmswestcornwall@hotmail.co.uk

September 10th
The Edmonton International AFV Model Show, Open House & Military Vehicle Display.
The show will be at HMCS Nonsuch, 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G-3E8, Canada.
We will have Military Artists: Ron Volstad and Robert Bailey present.
Registration 09:00 til 12:00, show goes to 6pm.
Food supplied by a fundrasing organisation.
Army Motors will be present to display historical Military Vehicles, with re enactors as well.
Present day Military vehicles and open house.
Contact for more info:
Anthony Sewards: teutonicknights@shaw.ca
Jon Baniak: jonbaniak@shaw.ca
Rod Doumouchel: krdumouc@telus.net
Website: www.aafvms.ca
EIAFVMS - Po Box 71071, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E-6J8

September 17th
THE ALBERTA MILITARY MODELLERS' SHOW
will be held at The Military Museums, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.
Registration is 09:00 until 11:00 with the show finishing up at 4:30.
All museum galleries will be open to visitors. There will be also be vendors, and a silent auction.
This is the only model show in Western Canada that rates armour, aircraft, ship, and figure entries on the ability of the modeller and not against other entries.
All entries will receive written feedback.
More information may be found on the website: www.albertamilmodshow.ca

September 18th
SUTTON COLFIELD MODEL SPECTACULAR
The Sutton Colfield Model Maker's Society presents the Model Spectacular 2011 on Sunday 18 September from 10:00 am and 4:30 pm at Sutton Colfield Town Hall, B73 6AB.
There will be model competitions in junior and senior categories and visiting clubs.
Contact point for Traders:
Andy Keane – 07581 493171
Andy_kk@live.co.uk
Contact point for Clubs:
Mark Knight – 07865 094582
markallistair@hotmail.co.uk
More information may be found on the website http://suttonmodellers.fotopic.net

October 20th-23rd
NEW VENUE FOR IPMS HELLAS NATIONALS.
The 30th IPMS Hellas Nationals will be held from the 20th to the 23rd October 2011 at the Olympic Airways employee Cultural Centre (Πολ.Κ.Ε.Ο.Α. Building - former O.A. International Departures Terminal - Entry from Poseidonos Av.) at the Former Western Air Terminal at Hellinikon.
Guest Stars for this year's competition will be Mr Miguelle Jimenez (MIG) from Spain and Mr Tsonos Megas (from Greece).
Full details may be found on the IPMS Hellas website: www.ipms-hellas.gr
For any questions please email: ipms-hellas@windowslive.com

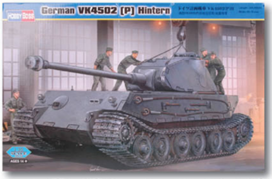
October 21st-22nd
IPMS USA Region II Convention
New Jersey IPMS once again is hosting the IPMS USA Region II Convention, we named JerseyCon II, at a new location - The Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center, Route 73, off Exit 4 on the New Jersey Turnpike, Mt Laurel, New Jersey. This new location offers better lighting, more vendor space and a better display area than the previous loation. Show Theme: "1941 - America Enters the War". For more details contact Big Bill tomcatter53@optimum.net or the club's website www.njipms.org

October 29th
Gravesham Military Modelling Society Open Day.
The 2011 GMMS Open Day will be held on Saturday 29th October 2011 from 10 am until 4:00 pm.
The show will include club displays, trade stands, open competition, refreshments and a raffle.
The venue is: Chalk Parish Hall, Lower Higham Road, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent.
For more information, visit the GMMS website www.gmms.org.uk

November 5th-6th
DENMARK MODEL SHOW
The Denmark model show / competition will be held at:
Esbjerg åben
Gammelby Fritidscenter,
Grønvangsvej
Esbjerg.
For more info look at web www.esbjergmodelbyggerforening.dk
There will be a lot of merchandise from businesses and private traders. Normally there are 500-750 models in competition so it is Denmark's biggest show.

November 5th
20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DESERT STORM MODEL CONTEST.
The 20th Anniversary of Desert Storm Model Contest will be held at the Rutherford County Agricultural Centre, 315 John Rice Blvd., Murfreesboro, TN 37129 on 5 November, 2011.
For additional information, please check the website: www.ipmsmiddletennessee.com

February 25th 2012
ON-TRACK 2012
Following the cancellation of the 'Universal Model Show' booking at the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, Harold Hanna will be taking over the now vacant date of Saturday February 25th for "On Track 2012".
Any questions, requests for booking forms or suggestions should be addressed to Harold at: on.track@live.co.uk



Paper, paper everywhere! **Darren Thompson** examines the latest paper Panzer offering from HobbyBoss, the VK4502(P) proposal with the rear mounted turret.

POSTERIOR PANZER

Hobby Boss has now produced both versions of the proposed VK4502 (P) prototype, with this second release featuring the aft-mounted turret, or 'Hintern' as Hobby Boss has called it. I am sure this will raise a smile from the German speakers amongst you, as the translation is very close to the correct 'Hinten', but not quite!

Only the version with the forward mounted turret was actually built, putting this kit firmly in the 'Paper Panzer' category, although the distinctive Porsche-designed turret was fitted onto the first batch of production King Tigers and many of the hull features formed the basis for the Elefant and Ferdinand Tanks.

The kit is moulded in sand-coloured styrene, exhibiting some extremely fine and detailed parts with no flash evident.

Upper and lower hull parts come as single mouldings, the lower tub being fairly basic, but the upper hull displaying some nice torch-cut marks and realistic weld detail.

The external suspension units are again quite simple, but mostly hidden upon completion. The road wheels and drive sprockets, however, are very nicely done, with bolt detail on both inner and outer surfaces. The two-part, individual track links are equally good. Thankfully there are no knock-out marks to deal with but they do have the faintest of sink marks on the inner face. They will also require a little time to clean up as there are six sprue contact points per link. Just be sure to alternate the horned and un-horned links when you finally get to assemble them.

External fittings are all standard German fare, with a pair of forward facing Bosch headlights, a full complement of pioneer tools and a brass wire tow cable with pre-hollowed plastic ends. The mounting brackets for the tow cable are a little heavy but otherwise it's all well up to modern standards. A small, etched fret is also included giving fine mesh screen covers for the three air intakes.

Moving upward, the turret is certainly the outstanding part of this kit. Consisting of separate inner and outer shells to deliver scale thickness and eliminate the need for any pin marks, the turret is fully detailed internally, comprising detailed turret floor, interior hatch workings, gun breech, full ammunition racks, motorized traverse mechanism, full aiming sights and a complete co-axial machine-gun

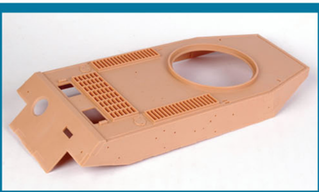
To give you some idea of the level of detail, the three largest sprues in the box are devoted entirely to detailing the turret and it should look fabulous with some careful assembly and painting.

The painting guide shows a simple Panzer Grey overall scheme, with decals providing basic white outlined turret numbers, with solid red centres and a pair of Balkankreuz, but as I mentioned earlier, the vehicle as depicted never went beyond the design stage so you are free to be as creative as you wish.

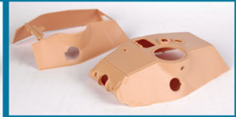
Overall, a nice production from HobbyBoss, with the standard of moulding and detailing reaching ever closer to the market leaders and at a very competitive price. ■

Highly Recommended.

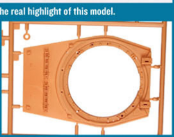
HobbyBoss kits are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk



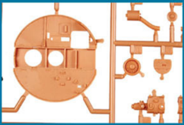
The upper hull is a nice single moulding with plenty of surface detail.



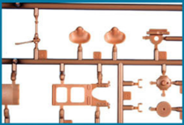
The turret is the real highlight of this model.



Detail is even moulded to the inside of the base of the turret.



The interior of the turret is thoroughly detailed.



More detail parts for the turret interior.

Drive sprockets are well done too.

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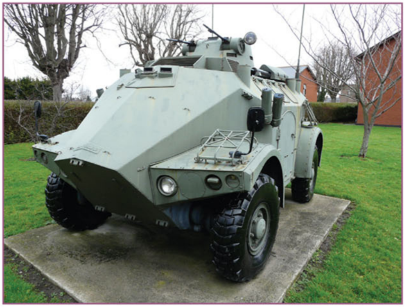
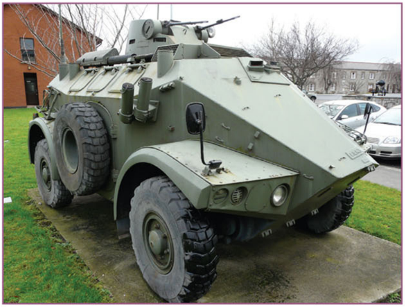


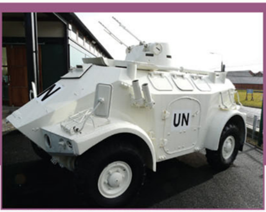
Front three quarter view of the Panhard M3 APC, its FN GPMG's askew showing the angular lines.



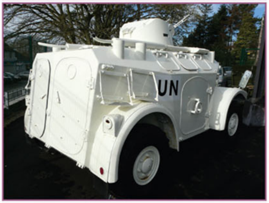
Front view of the M3 in standard Irish P.D.F colours. This particular example has its spare road wheel mounted on the right hatch. Also of note are the intact smoke launchers.

IRISH PANHARD M3 ARMOURED PERSONNEL CARRIER

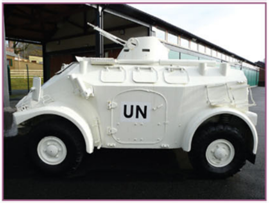
Zack Sex has provided these photos of two Irish Panhard M3 Armoured Personnel Carriers, both fitted with the unique twin GPMG turret



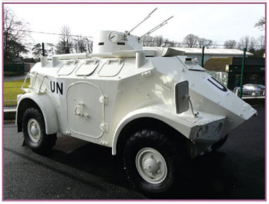
Side three quarter shot of the Irish Defence Forces M3 as it woulde have appeared in its U.N livery. These vehicles would have been a common sight in South Lebanon in the late 1970s and throughout the 1980s.



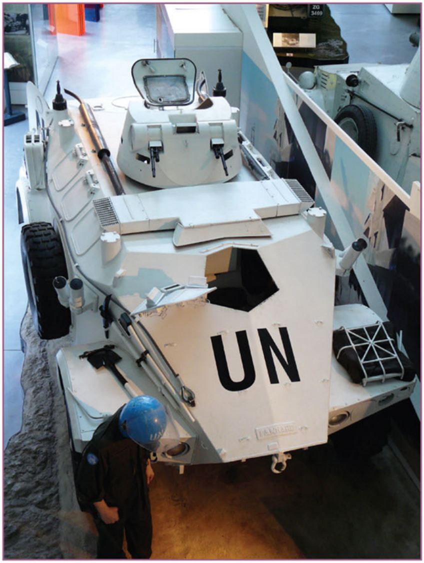
Rear three quarter view of the boxy M3, which has four entry/exit hatch doors, two on the rear and one on each side.



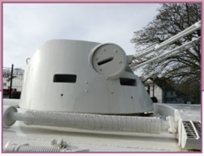
Side profile of the M3 showing to good effect the TL.2.1.80 turret, which is standard on all Irish M3's. The three hatches on each upper hull section can be used as firing ports.



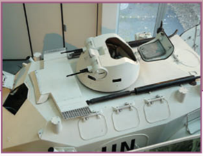
Front three quarter view of the M3, of note is the exhaust system which runs along the roof.



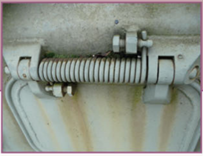
Top view of the Panhard M3 as it might have been found on the roads of South Lebanon, complete with bomb disposal mannequin.



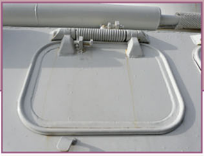
Detail shot of the side profile of the TL.2.1.80 twin 7.62 mm F.N G.P.M.G turret. Do not be put off by somewhat wonky tubes masquerading as machine guns on this example.



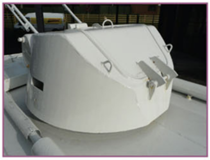
Upper shot of the M3 showing the complex construction of the TL.2.1.80 turret with its hatch open. Also of note is the air intake and exhaust system on this particular version.



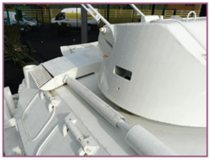
Detail shot of the coiled spring opening mechanism found on the gun ports of earlier versions of the M3.



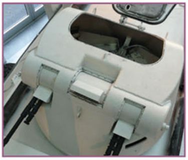
Detail shot of the gun port showing its raised rim and hinges.



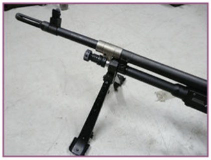
Rear view of the TL.2.1.80 turret showing the truncated cylindrical construction, which can be tricky to replicate in 1:35 scale.



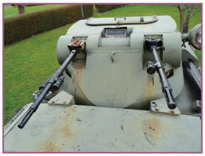
Detail shot of the M3 gun turret, air intake and exhaust. Also of note here is the later style gun port hinges.



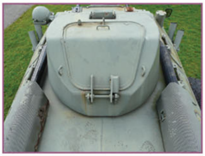
Overhead shot of the TL.2.1.80 turret showng the correct GPMG configuration. Strangely enough these weapons were side mounted for ease of use.



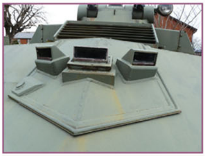
Detail shot of the barrel of a Fabrique National GPMG, such details as the gas regulator are evident.



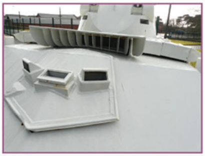
Front on view of the twin GPMG or Gimpees as they were known to the crews. Of note here is the main viewing port o the TL.1.2.80 turret.



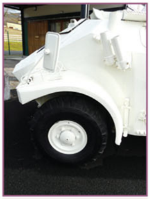
Rear view of the TL.2.1.80 turret and its hinging arrangement. This particular version has large exhaust shrouds fitted.



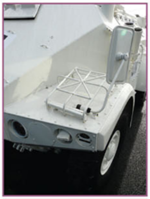
Detail shot of the driver's periscopic sighting system built into the pentagonal hatch. Of note on this version is the altered air intake.



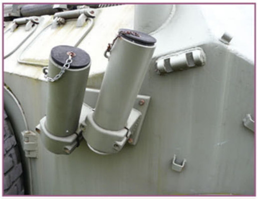
Detail shot of the driver's hatch and upper air intake cover, which can be left in the open or closed position depending on conditions.



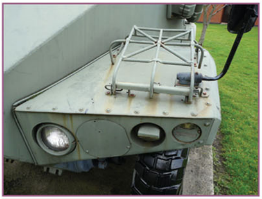
Detail shot of the front left side wheel area.



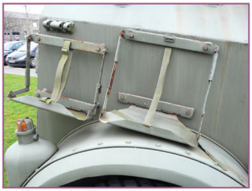
Detail shot of the front left mudguard with stowage rack particular to the French M3 and AML series.



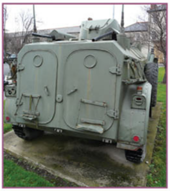
Detail shot of the smoke grenade launchers. These will be familiar to modellers of Israeli Shermans as they are used on the M50 and M51. According to Irish soldiers, these were highly successful.



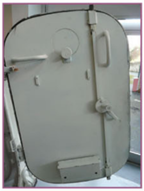
Detail shot of the front left mudguard light configuration and stowage rack.



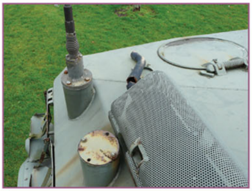
Detail shot of the fuel and water can holders on the rear of the M3.



Detail shot of the rear hatch on the M3. Of note are the small E shaped lugs on the lower hull are designed for lifting and towing the vehicle.

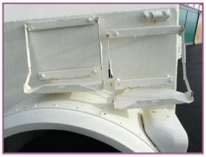


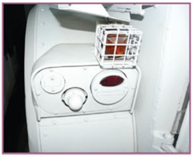
Detail shot of the inside of the right hand side rear hatch door showing pistol port and lock mechanism.



Detail shot of the antenna mount and rear hatch. In some Arab M3s this is utilised as a machine gun port.

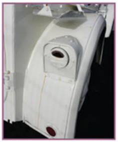
Detail shot of the fuel and water can holders.

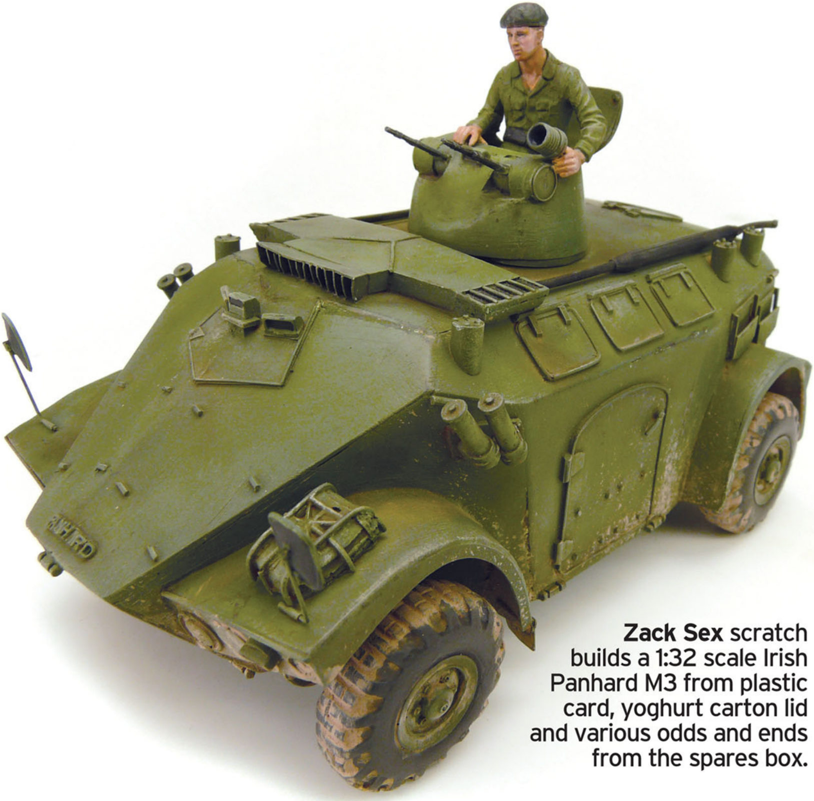




Detail shot of the rear left light configuration as mounted on the back of the mudguard.

Detail shot of the narrower left rear mudguard showing the light configuration.





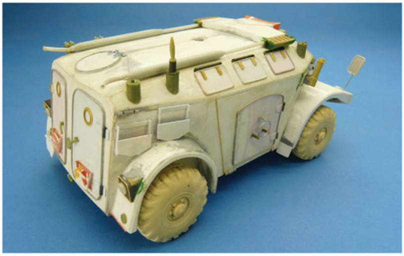
Zack Sex scratch builds a 1:32 scale Irish Panhard M3 from plastic card, yoghurt carton lid and various odds and ends from the spares box.

THE NOISE-FILLED METAL BOX

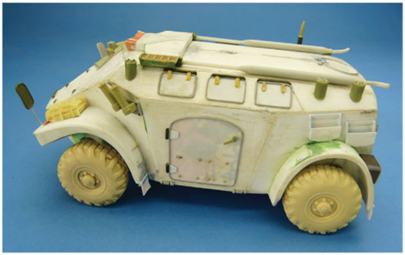
As the troubles in Northern Ireland unfolded, Republican and Loyalist groups unleashed their various campaigns that led to chaos and destruction on the streets of Northern Ireland, which saw the deployment of the British Army in an attempt to maintain civil order. Meanwhile, the Government and Defence Forces of the Irish Republic looked on askance at the anarchy that was unfolding on their northern border. With the real prospect of civil war on the island, the Irish Army found itself ill-prepared for such an eventuality and realised the need for acquiring modern equipment. The Irish Defence Forces turned to French company Panhard to acquire a modern APC to secure and patrol the state's northern border. While Panhard agreed to supply the Defence Forces with their M3 APC, the order would take more than two years to fulfil. In the meantime, the Irish government turned to Sweden, which quickly agreed to supply 18 armoured Unimogs that had been built to fill an order for Belguim, but were immediately available as a result of the embargo that was put in place due to the conflict in the Belgian Congo.

While the Panhard M3 was indeed a new and modern vehicle, the ordinary Irish soldier considered it a mixed blessing when compared to a spin in the back of a Land Rover.

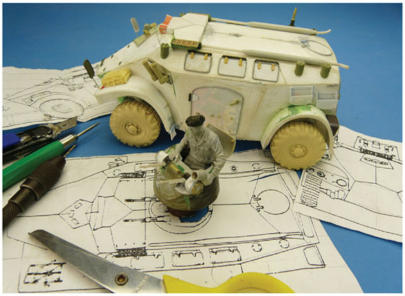
Sitting atop the Panhards fuel tank with one's back to the engine in what felt like a confined noise-filled metal box as it bumped along the potholed border roads was not something the average private looked forward to. That said, the



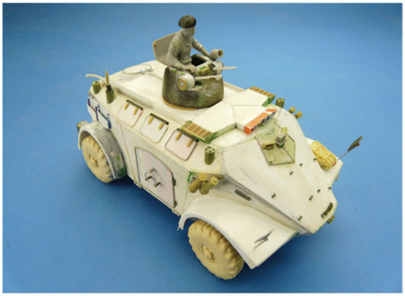
Rear view of the Panhard M3 hull showing the thin plastic fuel can holders access hatches and doors that were made using yoghurt carton lid with the outer rim finished using thin heat stretched sprue.



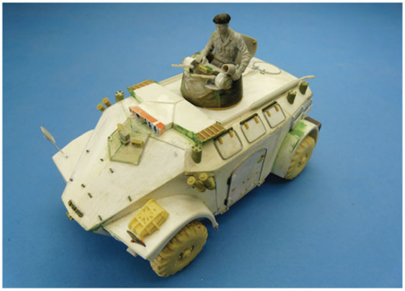
Side profile of the turretless Panhard. Items such as the driver's mirrors are attached by telephone wire. The French smoke grenade launchers are an old Verlinden offering while the green radio pot connectors are segments of Heller sprue frame.



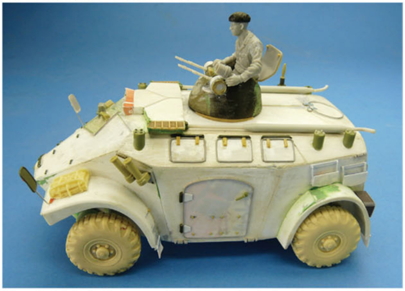
Overview of the Panhard with its twin machine gun turret particular to that used by the Irish Defence Forces. Also visible are the original Panhard M3 drawings enlarged to 1:32 scale by Tony Foley.



Top shot of the assembled Panhard. Of note is the convoluted structure of the small machine gun turret that was tricky to fabricate but complemented by the Commander figure.



Front three quarter view of the Panhard. Visible here is the angular driver's hatch constructed using stretched sprue, thin plastic and various Panther and Sherman periscopes from the spares box.



Side profile of the Panhard showing to good effect the two styles of mudguard postioned to the front and rear of the vehicle. The exhaust system mounted on the roof of the vehicle may be seen here too.

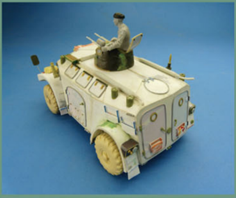
Panhards saw useful service over a number of years on the border as troops inspected the blocked and destroyed border crossings and bridges that had been closed by the British army in an attempt to prevent the I.R.A from transporting men and equipment across the border from secret bases in the south. Thus we have part of the inspiration for this scratch built Panhard M3 up on the border.

PRODUCING THE PANHARD

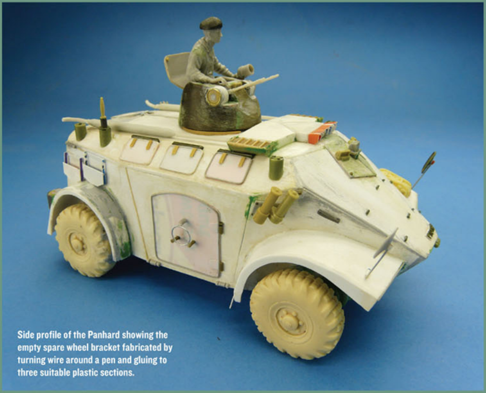
The other source of inspiration for this project arose while visiting my local model shop, 'All Models', run by Paul Walsh who has been pestering me to scratch build a Panhard M3. To this end I obtained a set of the late Tony Foley's scaled up 1:32 scale drawings of the said vehicle. I was also fortunate enough to get my hands on four Panhard wheels mastered and cast by my good friend Aaron Smith.

After merrily hacking my way through numerous sheets of plastic card, I produced the angled hull that is the basis for the Panhard M3.

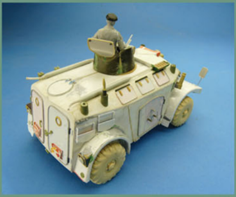
The next stage was to form the curved mudguards which, though tricky, if done patiently achieves the desired look and one simply has to add the various details such as mounting steps, fuel can holders, exhaust and air intakes. The particular machine gun turret used by the Irish Defence Forces differs from the various options used by countries such as Lebanon and Iraq, which have a simple hatch and armour plate and a single machine gun mounted. As the 7.62mm GPMG is the Irish Army standard machine gun, they opted for a simple turret with twin mounted GPMGs. This was ▶



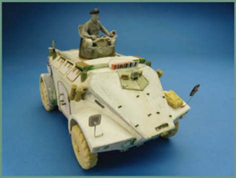
Rear top view of the Panhard showing the circular access hatch, rear entry doors and light box fittings mounted on the rear mudguards.



Side profile of the Panhard showing the empty spare wheel bracket fabricated by turning wire around a pen and gluing to three suitable plastic sections.

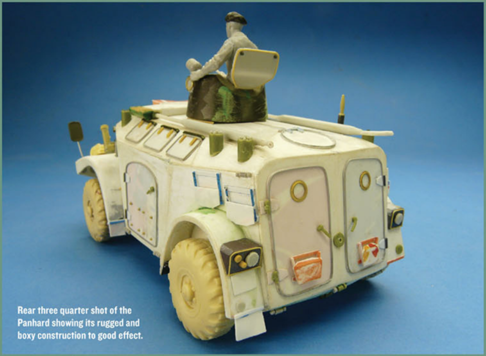


Right hand side rear shot of the Panhard M3 showing the shape and raised rim of the Commander's one piece access hatch.

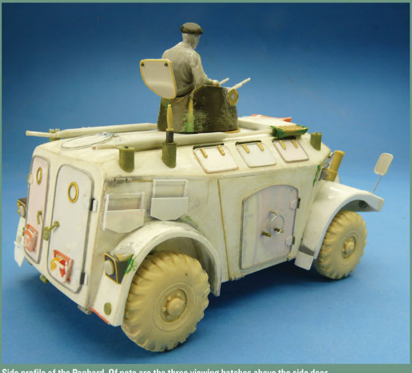


Front three quarter view of the Panhard showing the various light fittings built into the front mudguard.

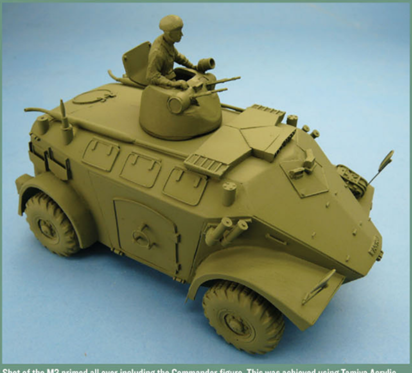
Front three quarter shot of the Panhard, that was extremely modern looking at the time, appears decidedly old fashioned nowadays.



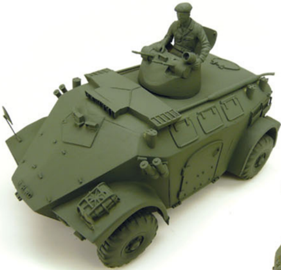
Rear three quarter shot of the Panhard showing its rugged and boxy construction to good effect.



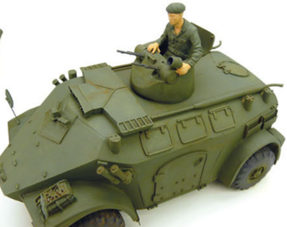
Side profile of the Panhard. Of note are the three viewing hatches above the side door.



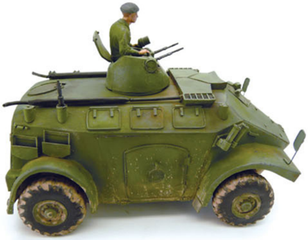
Shot of the M3 primed all over including the Commander figure. This was achieved using Tamiya Acrylic green and gave a good base for various washes and detailing work to follow.



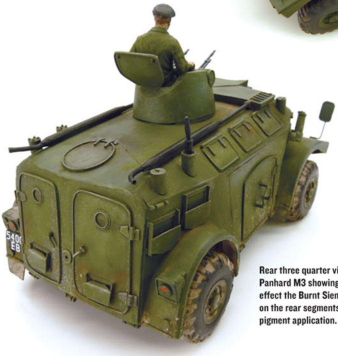
Top three quarter view of the Panhard. The first indicator of how this jumble of assorted plastic and resin parts was seen when assembled and given a first coat of green paint.



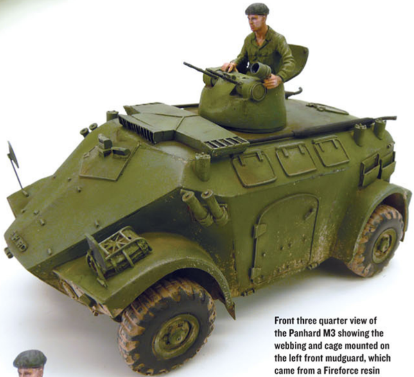
Top shot of the Panhard in stage 2 of the painting process with some lighter tones, oil washes and humbrol flesh applied to the ex US Marine Airfix figure, who has had a Tamiya beret attached to his head.



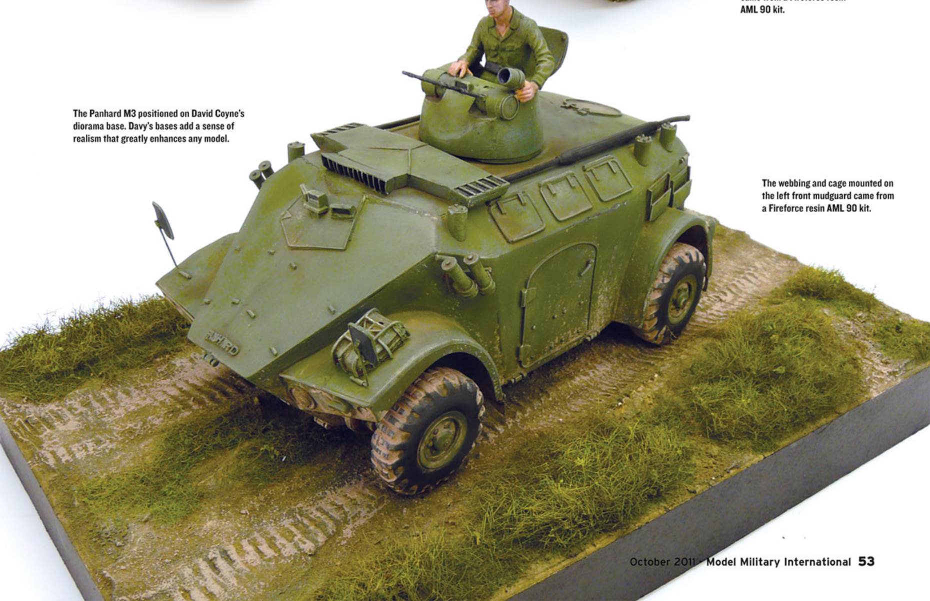
Side view of the Panhard M3 after washes and limited dry brushing. Terracotta clay has also been applied to the wheels and lower hull.



Rear three quarter view of the Panhard M3 showing to good effect the Burnt Sienna wash on the rear segments prior to pigment application.

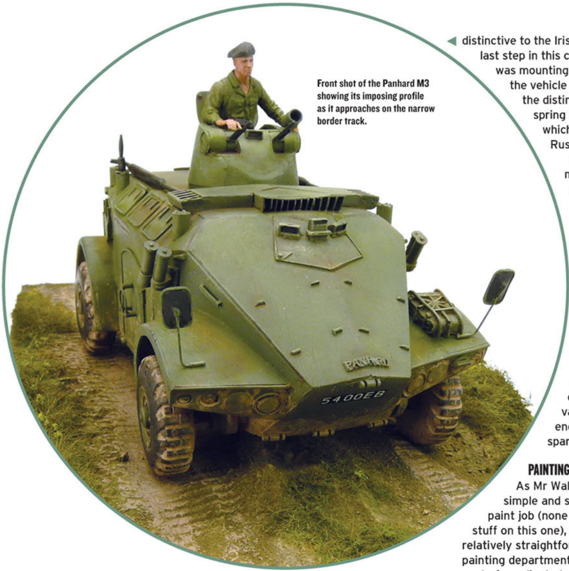


Front three quarter view of the Panhard M3 showing the webbing and cage mounted on the left front mudguard, which came from a Fireforce resin AML 90 kit.



The Panhard M3 positioned on David Coyne's diorama base. Davy's bases add a sense of realism that greatly enhances any model.

The webbing and cage mounted on the left front mudguard came from a Fireforce resin AML 90 kit.



Front shot of the Panhard M3 showing its imposing profile as it approaches on the narrow border track.

distinctive to the Irish vehicle. The last step in this construction was mounting the wheels to the vehicle and fabricating the distinctive coil spring suspension, which I took from a Russian T-34/85. Other than minor pieces such as the GPMG barrels and turret Commander, which came from an Airfix 1:32 scale box of U.S Marine figures, the vehicle was constructed using plastic card, a yoghurt carton lid and various odds and ends from the spares box.

PAINTING THE PANHARD

As Mr Walsh required a simple and straightforward paint job (none of that fancy stuff on this one), my task was relatively straightforward in the painting department, essentially a coat of acrylic dark green that was then given a wash of raw umber artist oils and lightly weathered in keeping with the fact that these vehicles were not covered in paint chips and oil stains.

The modified Airfix figure was quickly painted in Humbrol enamels as Walsh had set very tight deadlines for the presentation of this piece to his pal. The final element required was a classy Davy Coyne base depicting a small square of the North Monaghan badlands. This base was constructed by David in his usual fashion using a square of stryofoam packaging covered in builders plaster into which he mixed some sand and small pebbles applied to the surface of the Styrofoam and then sprays with a series of earth tones on top of which he adds railway modellers grass.

Having completed this Irish Defence Forces Panhard, I must say I am now tempted to try my hand at an AML 60, 90 or for that matter one of the early armoured Unimogs or Lansverks. ■

Mini Modelspec

Scratch Built 1:32 scale Panhard M3

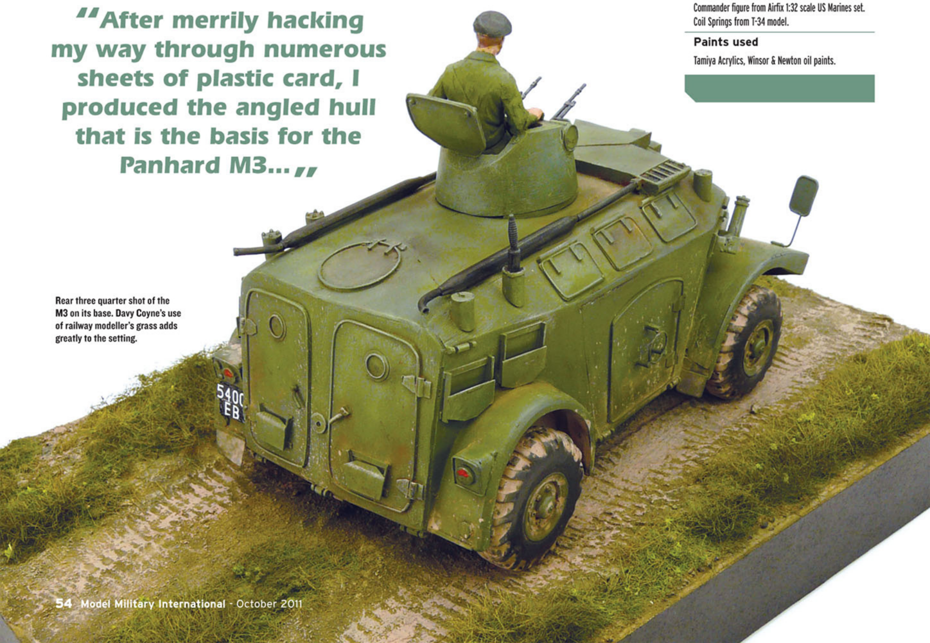
Materials

Plastic card, yoghurt carton lid and various odds and ends from the spares box.
Commander figure from Airfix 1:32 scale US Marines set.
Coil Springs from T-34 model.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics, Winsor & Newton oil paints.

> **"After merrily hacking my way through numerous sheets of plastic card, I produced the angled hull that is the basis for the Panhard M3..."**



Rear three quarter shot of the M3 on its base. Davy Coyne's use of railway modeller's grass adds greatly to the setting.

Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...

DRAGON

Panzer-Regiment 7 10.Panzer-Division
Smolensk 1941
DRAGON

**1:35 SCALE
PANZER-REGIMENT 7, 10. PANZER-DIVISION SMOLENSK 1941
ITEM NO. 6655**

Dragon's 1:35 scale figure release, "Panzer-Regiment 7, 10. Panzer-Division Smolensk 1941", comprises three Panzer crew figures and a fourth depicting Generaloberst Heinz Wilhelm Guderian.

The three crew figures will be very versatile, with their ideal home being a Panzer III or IV – perfect for the location and timeframe - due to one of the crewmen posed to be sitting in a turret's side hatch.

Even if you do not find an excuse to place Generaloberst Guderian in the same diorama (inspecting troops passing during Smolensk's encirclement perhaps), he will still be an interesting standalone subject.

The figures are Dragon's "Generation 1" style but are still extremely well done. The drape of uniforms, facial features, straps and general poses are all very natural and authentic.

Guderian's great coat is especially cleverly broken down to permit the legs to be separate from the hems.

There is a little bit of very fine flash on some of the pieces but moulding is otherwise flawless. Two plastic jerry cans with photo-etched metal spacers are included too.

This is an interesting and versatile set for anyone building an early Panzer III or IV in service during the triumphant initial months of Operation Barbarossa.

Definitely Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample www.hobbyco.net

Brett Green

BRITISH SOLDIERS TANK RIDERS
35071
1:35
MiniArt

MINIART

**1:35 SCALE
BRITISH SOLDIERS TANK RIDERS
ITEM NO. 35071**

Oh what a difference a few years makes. Fans of British armour have suffered for decades from outdated kits and great yawning gaps in the ranks of military vehicles.

A recent renaissance in scale British armour now sees us with state-of-the-art 1:35 scale Matildas, Churchills, Valentines, a Vickers Light Tank Mk.VI and more.

MiniArt has been partially responsible for this happy situation, and they seem determined to make it even happier with another new Commonwealth figure release.

"British Soldiers Tank Riders" includes five figures in tropical garb – a tank Commander and four armed but seated figures. The figures are made up from 75 grey plastic parts. Weapons include Lee-Enfield .303 rifles and a Bren Gun.

Detail and sculpting of the figures is very good, although there is a bit more flash than you might expect to see on a Dragon or Tamiya figure set. Once cleaned up, though, the MiniArt figures shoud look excellent.

These tank riders will be suitable for use in North African, Italian, SEAC or Pacific scenes.

Recommended.

Available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

Brett Green

MASTER BOX

**1:35 SCALE
ROMMEL AND GERMAN TANK CREW, DAK, WWII ERA. ITEM NO. MB3561
HAND-TO-HAND FIGHT, BRITISH AND GERMAN INFANTRY, BATTLES IN NORTH AFRICA, WWII ERA, KIT 1, ITEM NO. MB3592**

Master Box from Ukraine is already a major player in the modelling world. Their catalogue is full of great subjects and is growing fast.

Their new figures sets are just lovely. Both box arts, signed by A. Karaschuk are just awesome - full of life and action. In my opinion they are they are some of the most attractive box arts around.

Both sets are sculpted by A. Gagarin and the figures look natural and anatomically accurate.

In set MB3561 we find six figures. One of these represents Rommel and all the others are German tank crew members. The poses are really great and this set will be suitable for any DAK scenario.

Five figures are included in set MB3592 and their poses must be seen to be believed. They are just perfect - you can almost feel the tension and stress. These figures are posed in hand-to-hand combat and they will look awesome once assembled and painted. Also, this set can also be combined with their set MB3580, "British Infantry North Africa".

Assembly instructions and Vallejo Acrylics paint reference is included on the back of the box.

These new sets from Master Box are absolutely great. I recommend them without any reservation.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Master Box for the review samples.

Master Box is available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

José Brito

ALPINE MINIATURES

1:35 SCALE • TIGER ACES IN NORMANDY • ITEM NO. 35122

Alpine Miniatures has added a new pair of 1:35 scale German WWII tankers to their range.

"Tiger Aces in Normandy" supplies two famous figures – Tiger Ace Michael Wittmann and his gunner, Balthasar 'Bobby' Woll. They are both provided in standing poses. Alternate heads with different caps are supplied for both figures

Each figure is made up from five parts plus the optional heads. The attractive box art will be a good guide for painting in both cases.

The individual figures are also available separately as Item Nos. 35120 and 35121.

Whether you choose to use these as the famous personalities or as generic Panzer crew, these will be a valuable enhancement to your Panzer or to your scene. Highly Recommended.

Alpine Miniatures products may be viewed on their website www.alpineminiatures.com

Brett Green

Alpine®
Miniatures
35122 Tiger Aces in Normandy
2 Figures & 4 Heads Included

1:35 '39-'45 SERIES
Pz.Kpfw.III (5cm) Ausf.H
Sd.Kfz.141
Late Production
Smart Kit
DRAGON

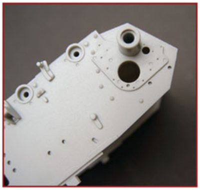
DRAGON

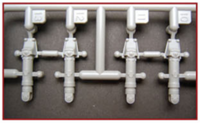
1:35 SCALE PANZER III (5CM) AUSF H • KIT NO. 6642

Well, what can I say? I like Panzer IIIs and, from a historical angle, I like anything from the Desert Campaign between 1941 and 1943. And here we have a DAK Panzer III. Thank you Dragon!

I do admit to having a soft spot for Dragon Panzer IIIs and it is fair to say that they have cornered the market in this mainstay of the German armoured corps from WWII. This kit appears to be mainly a re-box of many sprues from existing Panzer III kits, however the turret shell seems to be totally new. Regardless, the kit oozes detail with all parts being clean, crisp and flash free.

There are just over 800 parts packed into this kit. The hull tub is finely detailed, to which you add the separate torsion bars, just like the original. Alternate smoke candle racks are provided, as are the air louvers on the rear engine deck, plus the rear fender attachments. The track guards attach to the hull on hangers, again just like the original. All of tools have moulded on clasps – I would like to have seen them in photo-etched metal, but they are very finely done. The tracks are 'Magic' and are not handed. My only criticism is that the knock-out pin marks are very prominent on each track link. The etched fret give you optional mounts for the lifting hooks, covers for the air inlets and inner rings for the idler wheels. Turning to the turret, there are clear parts provided for the vision blocks, as well as a detailed breech and basket. Weld detail and countersunk screws are all there on the turret shell.





DRAGON
Magic Track
DRAGON

Markings are provided for five machines – three DAK, one for the Eastern Front 1942 and another for Greece in 1941.

Having built a few of these Dragon Panzer IIIs, there are no major fit problems with them, regardless of version. It has to come highly recommended.

Highly Recommended.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited www.hobbyco.net

Graham Tetley

TRISTAR

1:35 SCALE PANZER 38(T) INDIVIDUAL TRACK LINKS • ITEM NO. 035

Tristar has recently released a set of later war 1:35 scale Panzer 38(t) tracks. There are four sprues bearing 75 links each, giving a total of 300 links. At 93 links per side, this means you will end up with plenty of spare links. The tracks are suitable for any later war Pz. 38(t) or variant.

The individual links are crisply moulded, and the guide horns have the appropriate "scallop" (for the want of a better term). There is a small amount of flash on some links, but clean-up will be quick and easy.

Comparing the Tristar links a set of Dragon Magic Tracks in my stash, the only difference that stood out was colour of the plastic.

The Tristar tracks are designed to be a click fit without the requirement for glue. It works quite well, and the track remains articulated. I would suggest that the completed track will not be as resistant to rough handling as say, Friulmodel ones, but it will be a darned sight easier to get them into position than non-articulated plastic ones.

They are definitely recommended, particularly to replace rubber band-style tracks.

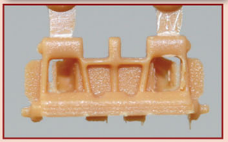
Recommended.

Thanks to Tristar for the sample

www.tristar-model.com

Bill Watt

Pz 38(t) family Lighter Cast Kettenglieder (tracklink)
053
Pz.38(t)ファミリー 軽量型 履帯
Tristar
Scale 1/35 Series 053



AMMUNITION CRATES AND CONTAINERS FOR
105mm HOWITZER
AFV CLUB
AF35184
FOR:
M101A1 105mm Howitzer
M101 105mm Howitzer
M2A1 105mm Howitzer

AFV CLUB

1:35 SCALE AMMUNITION CRATES AND CONTAINERS FOR 105MM HOWITZER (US) ITEM NO. AF35184

Accessory sets for kits were once the sole domain of the aftermarket companies however a number of model manufacturers have started to offer accessory kits of their own at far more modest pricing than the aftermarket companies are able. This latest set from AFV Club is designed to complement their US M2A1 105mm artillery kits. Of course, these are also suitable for 105mm Armoured Assault Guns and SPGs such as the M7 Priest and the M4 Sherman 105mm Assault Gun from other manufacturers.

The set contains the following crates and containers:

- Individual Cardboard Fibre Tubes – Qty 22 (a quantity is used to make up the triple crates)
- Individual Steel Tubes – Qty 12
- Triple cluster in wooden crates – Qty 4
- Triple Cluster with steel end caps – Qty 4
- Wooden Crate dual banded – Qty 4
- Wooden Crate triple banded – Qty 4

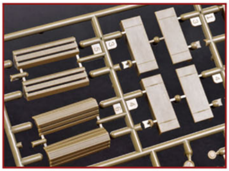
Construction is simple with few parts to assemble and sharp detail moulded on. Photo-etched straps are included for the triple banded crates along with extensive details to mark each tube. This is a problem area with no marking other than the box illustration to guide the modeller. The only other thing I am not happy about is the way the boxes are moulded which makes it near impossible to display them open. Apart from those complaints this is a very useful set and I hope AFV repeat this set for their 3" AT gun. They are very useful for artillery dioramas and as vehicle stowage on such vehicles as the M4 105 and the M7.

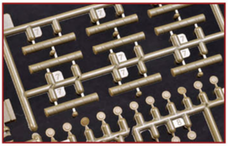
Highly Recommended.

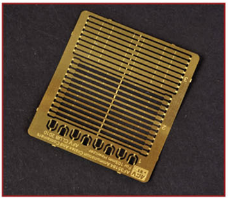
Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample

www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Al Bowie







Inside the Armour
35022
Churchill MkIII/IV Interior
(For AFV Club 35053 and 35034)
www.InsidetheArmour.com
For Modellers Over the Age of 16
Contains Small Parts, Keep out of reach of children

INSIDE THE ARMOUR

1:35 SCALE CHURCHILL MK.III/IV INTERIOR • ITEM NO. 35022

"Inside the Armour" has released a new batch of detail upgrades and conversions for AFV Club's excellent family of Churchill tanks. Perhaps the most spectacular of these is an interior set for the Churchill Mk.III/IV.

This is a real multi-media feast made up from 91 resin parts, six photo-etched frets, two turned metal BESA machine gun barrels, a spool of brass wire and three plastic rods.

Parts are provided to fit out the entire turret interior, driver's compartment and fighting compartment in AFV Club's Churchill kit nos. 35053 or 35034. Amongst the jumble of resin parts is an entire corrected Churchill Mk.IV turret (upper and lower halves), plus an alternative turret floor if you choose to use this set for a Mk.III.

The resin parts are crisply cast with easy to manage attachment blocks, but there is a fair bit of fine flash to clean up before installation. The photo-etched frets are amazing, offering both large stowage items such as shell racks as well as some of the very fine details found in a tank interior.

The inclusion of resin weapons (Bren Gun, two Thompson guns) and two turned metal BESA gun barrels is a nice touch too.

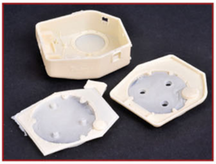
The set is packed inside a stout box that should protect the delicate contents on their journey to your mailbox. Instructions are not supplied in print, but on a small disk. I am sure this is fine for 90% of computer users out there, but I cannot load this disk into my Mac so I can't comment on the instructions at this time. Chris from Inside the Armour will happily send an alternative disk to anyone in the same predicament though. Mine is on the way.

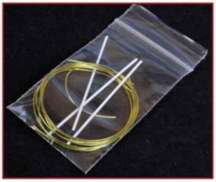
This is a spectacular set that will be a challenging but satisfying project for experienced modellers.

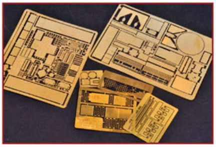
Highly Recommended.

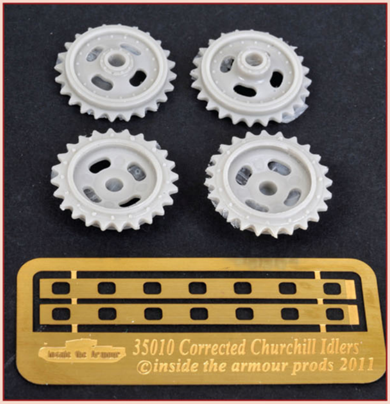
Available from Inside the Armour www.insidethearmour.com

Brett Green








Inside the Armour
35010 Corrected Churchill Idlers
©inside the armour prods 2011

INSIDE THE ARMOUR

1:35 SCALE IMPROVED REPLACEMENT IDLERS FOR AFV CLUB CHURCHILLS • ITEM NO. 35010I

In contrast to the item reviewed to the left, this is a very straightforward replacement for AFV Club's Churchill idler wheels.

They should be a drop-fit substitute for the kit parts.

Recommended.

Inside the Armour products are available online from their website www.insidethearmour.com

Brett Green

VALLEJO

AIRBRUSH CLEANER FROM VALLEJO ACRYLICS

Often the most expensive tools in any modeller's arsenal is the airbrush. Besides being an expensive item, is also very delicate. It is composed of several movable parts and must be treated properly in order to get the best performance.

I have been using acrylics exclusively in the last five or six years and in the past I used to clean my airbrushes with the help of sanitary alcohol. Sanitary alcohol is cheap and easy to find, but is also very strong and can easily damage some of the airbrush parts, especially all the "o-rings". When the "o-rings" fail, the airbrush performance can be compromised and very soon you will not get the best results when airbrushing.

According my experience it does not matter what airbrush you are using. I have already had a few different models and at this moment I am using an Iwata Evolution. If you want the best results and if you want to preserve your investment, you should try Airbrush Cleaner from Vallejo Acrylics. Airbrush Cleaner from Vallejo is a super strong cleaning solution. It practically destroys the pigment but at the same time it lubricates the airbrush mechanism. But, even more important is that it does not damage the "o-rings".

An airbrush is a big investment. It is an expensive tool and must be used and cleaned properly in order to live long and get the best results. Airbrush Cleaner from Vallejo Acrylics is a great product and very soon, keeping your airbrush in pristine condition will be a breeze and not a nightmare.

You can find it in bottles of 85ml (Ref. 71099) and 200ml (71199).

Highly Recommended.

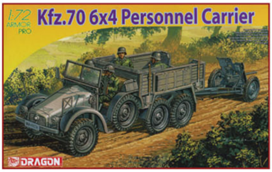
Thanks to Vallejo Acrylics for the review sample www.acrylicosvallejo.com

Vallejo products are available online from Creative Models Limited www.creativemodels.co.uk

José Brito

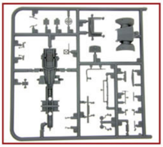
AIRBRUSH CLEANER
LIMPIADOR DE AEROGRAFO
AV vallejo
Ref. 71199
AIRBRUSH CLEANER
099
AV vallejo
85 ml. e

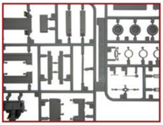
Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



DRAGON

1:72 SCALE
KFZ.70 6X4 PERSONNEL CARRIER
KIT NO. 7377



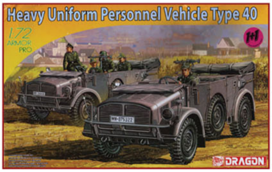


It is good to see some new small scale releases covering subjects other than tanks and heavy armour. Unofficially known as the Krupp-Protze, this new kit also comes with the previously released PaK 35/36 which is shown on the box but not included in the kit title. Both are very nicely done. The carrier in particular has some very fine detail including a fully detailed chassis, separate tools and a very delicate tread pattern on the cab floor. The gun shield is a little on the thick side with slightly heavy surface detail but getting a scale thickness would be impractical.

As expected with modern Dragon kits, the parts are all perfectly moulded with no flash and the few ejector pin marks present are all well hidden away.

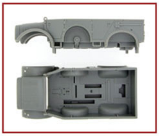
Illustrations for three colour schemes are given - two plain grey and a whitewashed vehicle.

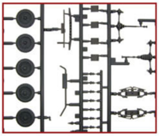
Highly Recommended.


Heavy Uniform Personnel Vehicle Type 40
1:72 ARMOR PRO
1+1
DRAGON

DRAGON

1:72 SCALE
HEAVY UNIFORM PERSONNEL VEHICLE TYPE 40
KIT NO. 7378





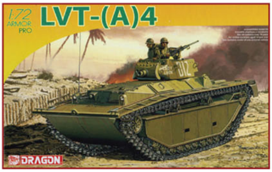
In a similar vein to the Kruppe Protze kit, this is another wheeled personnel vehicle, better known as the Horch. Due to the small size of the vehicle, Dragon has provided two in the box. The main body is a single piece and it is a fantastic bit of moulding.

The only real negatives are the moulded on tools (not too hard to cut off and replace if desired) and the overscale interior tread plate pattern. This is in contrast to the very delicate pattern found on the Kruppe-Protze kit. Strangely, there is some photo-etched plate provided but this has an equally coarse pattern!

Despite these anomalies, the kit is of a very high standard and it's great to see more kits of these types of subject.

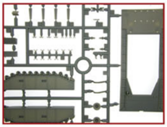
Marking are provided for three quite different finishes – plain grey, 3-tone sprayed camouflage and an Afrika Korps desert finish.

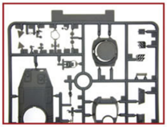
Highly Recommended.



DRAGON

1:72 SCALE
LVT-(A)4
KIT NO. 7388





Hot on the heels of the LVT-(A)1, comes the version equipped with a 75mm howitzer turret. Many of the hull parts are common to the earlier kit with the lower hull being a large single tub along with the other parts on additional sprues. The complex suspension of the real vehicle is very well done and has been moulded as single piece units that will be easy to assemble.

The tracks are sections of DS styrene and are nicely detailed. This flexible material may be glued using regular model cement, so assembly will be straightforward and fast.

Given the earlier release of the (A)1 variant, this was a sensible release from Dragon given the commonality in parts. It is certainly another welcome change from the Tiger and Panther kits that saturate the market.

Colour schemes are given for a plain Olive Drab vehicle and a brighter three-colour scheme.

Another winning kit from Dragon.

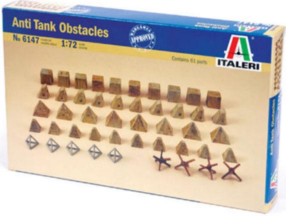
Highly Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the samples www.hobbyco.net

Alex Clark

ITALERI

1:72 SCALE ANTITANK OBSTACLES • ITEM NO. 6147



As a child I can recall being drawn to diorama aids and accessories that offered components superior to those I could fashion myself. But as an adult modeller I would generally choose to make my own diorama components and I think that this attitude would prevail amongst most adult modellers. This said, I understand that wargamers might like the convenience of virtually ready-made accessories for use in their miniature battles.

This set is packed in typical European end-opening box with a photographic image of the assembled contents on the front of the box and simple assembly instructions on the rear. Assembly, where required, is simplicity itself. The accompanying images clearly illustrate what the package offers.

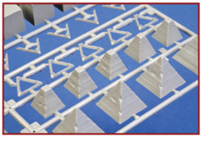
The antitank obstacles offer a variety of impediments to AFV transit, and are nicely produced. There are ten pieces each of the three concrete styles and five and four each of the two steel types. There is no indication of nationality of the designs and so, not being an expert on anti-tank barrier recognition, I assume that they are generic. Given their use on mass I think that in this case there is something to be said for these manufactured items over homemade alternatives in diorama use. Their applicability to wargaming is also very clear.

I think Italeri should find sales amongst both diorama builders and wargamers, and I happily recommend this particular set to both groups.

Recommended.

Thanks to Italeri for the sample www.italeri.com

Mark Davies



CATCHING A LITTLE FLAK

Revell
8,8cm Flak 36 (Kommandogerät 40, Sd.Ah. 202, Sd.Ah. 52)
1:72
Plastik-Modellbausatz
Plastic modelkit
Modèle réduit
Modelbouwdoos
9,0 cm

Hasegawa's 88 mm gun was the best in small scale for many years, but how does Revell's new Flak 36 plus Kommandogerat 40, Sd.Ah.52 and Sd.Ah. 202 trailer measure up? **Glen Porter** tells all.

The 88 mm Flak gun was Germany's main anti-aircraft weapon throughout the Second World War. Developed from a similar 75 mm gun, it was also found to be an exceptional anti-tank weapon and in fact many of the late war German tanks had a gun that was a direct development.

As far as I know, the only other 1:72 scale injection plastic 88 was from Hasegawa quite a few years ago and they produced a Flak 18 and also a Flak 36. The main difference between them was the Flak 36 had a multi piece barrel that allowed the worn-out bits to be replaced more easily. The Flak 18 had single road wheels at the front and duals at the back (Sd. Ah.201) while the 36 had duals at front and rear (Sd.Ah.202). The Hasegawa 36 has been criticized for having the same Sd.Ah.201 as the Flak 18. However, my one reference book tells me that there was such a thing as a Flak 18/36 which had the 36's multi piece barrel but was mounted on the early six-wheeled Sd.Ah.201.

The other criticism of the Hasegawa kits was a lack of detail, which I thought was a bit unreasonable until I saw the Revell kit. The Revell kit comes with 200 parts on 5 sprues, A to D with B duplicated and in pale grey plastic. There is a small amount of flash here and there and a one minor sink mark. The A sprue carries most of the gun and mount parts and for some strange reason there is a Flak 18 barrel. There is also an extra gun shield with extended width on one side and I notice that one option in the colour schemes uses this shield and the Flak 18 gun. The cruciform mount is very accurate for the late Sd.Ah.202 trailer and may be modelled in the transit or firing position.

The two sprue Bs cover the two four wheeled dollies that, when fixed to the gun mount, form the Sd.Ah.202 trailer. These two dollies are almost identical with both having steering but the one on the rear would have the steering locked and a crew seat mounted on top.Sprue C is the Kommandogerat 40 and Sd.Ah.52 of the title which is a gun direction and range finding system similar to that used in a warship and would be connected to up to four guns by cable. Again this can be modelled in the transit or firing position and has a trailer similar to those used for 20 and 30mm AA guns.

The three 88mm marks were produced - the Flak 18, Flak 36 and Flak 37, could all be fitted with a semi-automatic loading system. Photos show that not all were fitted with it however and after asking on Missing-Lynx, I was told that it depended on what the gun was going to be used for. Anti-tank guns were firing almost horizontally and the crews found they could load quicker by hand while those in the anti-aircraft role, which often faced up to 90% from the horizontal, it was quicker to use the loading system.

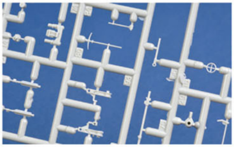
The Hasegawa kits come with this loading system although the box art shows both in the anti-tank role. The Revell kit, both the box art and contents, show it to be in the anti-aircraft role yet in does not come with this system. Odd that.

Faults? All kits have faults but this has none that are major. I guess the worst is the wheels that have tread on the sidewalls that come almost down to the rims. I think some of this tread can be filed off to make them look more normal. As mentioned above, there is a small amount of flash on some of the smaller parts and I could only find one sink mark but it is on one side of the breach so it will have to be removed.

The instructions are as we've come to expect from Revell with good clear, although somewhat busy, build diagrams and four colour options.

As good as I thought the Hasegawa kits were, this offering from Revell is a big improvement in terms of both detail and accuracy. Now all we need is a vehicle to tow it and a gun crew.

So how about it Mr. Revell? Any time soon will do! ■


Tools and small details are delicately rendered.

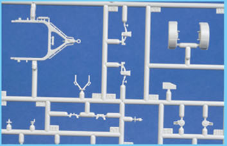
Revel has done a magnificent job with their new small-scale 88 mm.

Revell kits are available online from Hannants www.hannants.co.uk

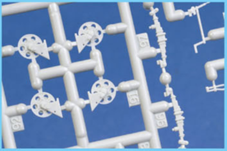
The gun shield – suitably thin in this small scale.

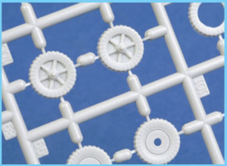
The cruciform mount is nicely done.

Additional parts are provided for a detailed Kommandogerat 40 stereoscopic rangefinder.


The trailer is a little beauty.

One of the two four-wheeled dollies.


Cable drums and suspension components.


The tread on the tyre sidewalls almost comes down to the rims

48th 1:48 Scale - A round-up of the latest news and releases

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

When starting a project, how many of us have gathered together as much information as we can possibly muster with the aim of producing the most accurate and complete model that we possibly can?
For example, during my last 1:48 scale project I had gathered together as much reference as I could.
It is strange what bowerbirds we become when sourcing reference material. We may see a book and buy it. We may see a unique photo and save it on our computer. Generally more than enough reference can be downloaded from the Net.
I am old enough to remember when obtaining reference material was more than a little difficult I remember driving for 6 hours straight to photograph a German "Meilerwagen" and then drove 6 hours back home (which would make a great 1:48 scale subject if anybody is listening).
Sometimes, however, the sheer volume of material can be a little overwhelming. Take for example my last 1:48 scale project, I literally had around 20 books and numerous model build articles to choose from. The information I had on hand was sometimes contradictory, the drawings did not match and on the odd occasion the captions on the photos were entirely wrong. At one point I was quite simply overwhelmed with the amount of information on offer.
They do say ignorance is bliss and on this occasion I found it very difficult to trawl through all the information on hand. The real trick is to take what you need and dump the rest. However, I find this difficult to do and I'll bet that some of you do too!

Until next time Luke Pitt

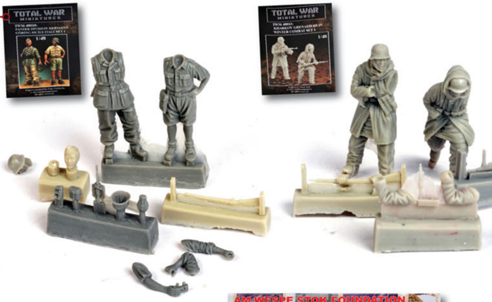
TOTAL WAR MINIATURES

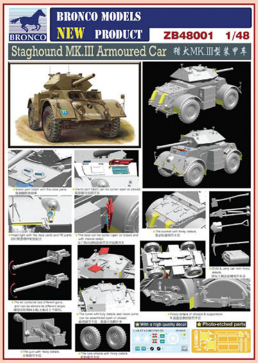
NEW FIGURE SETS

As mentioned in previous months, Total War Miniatures continues to release some of the best 1:48 scale figure available today, In this batch of releases we have:

TWM 48010 STANDING GERMAN PANZER DIVISION TROOPS
TWM 48011 GERMAN KHARKOV GRENADIERS

The skill of sculptor involved is quite frankly amazing The German Kharkov Grenadiers are my personal favourites. I love the poses; the fabric folds are handled very well as are the facial features. The castings are clean and free of any blemish marks. If you want some of the best 1:48 scale figures on the market today, these should be considered at the top of your list.
Highly Recommended.
Available online from www.totalwarminiatures.com
Luke Pitt





BRONCO MODELS
NEW PRODUCT ZB48001 1/48
Staghound MK.III Armoured Car 猎犬MK.III型装甲车

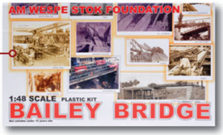
NEWS

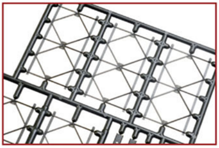
I have received some rather sad news that the Tank Workshop LRDG truck will not be released due to a number of factors outside the manufacturer's control. But on a positive note, I can confirm that Bronco will release a full plastic kit of the Staghound soon, if not by the time this column goes to print. I welcome this as this firm has a wonderful array of kits that would translate well in to the 1:48 scale market. The only way for us to get more from this manufacturer is to buy them in numbers.

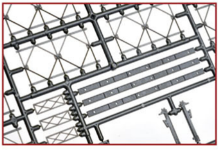
AM WESPE/STOK FOUNDATION

BAILEY BRIDGE
ITEM NO. NOT QUOTED

Mr J M Stok was one of the pioneers of 1:48 scale scale military modelling. He created some of the most detailed and innovative model kits of the era. Upon his death many of the masters were lost. It is pleasing, then, that Wespe models from Romania has seen fit to release his rendition of the "Bailey Bridge" in 1:48 scale. I was quite surprised when opening when this kit as I had thought that all of Mr Stok's work was rendered in resin. What we have is 83 injected plastic parts spread over four dark grey sprues and seven brown bridge base sections. The moulding of the parts is very well done. The four dark grey sprues make up the bulk of the superstructure. A comprehensive 16 page instruction booklet is provided that is both well designed and informative. The model when complete is an impressive 480 x 120 x 45mm.
What I like most about this kit is its modular design (pretty much like the real thing really) in that you can if you wish add (with the aid of another kit) the length of the bridge if so desired. If you need a bridge then I highly recommend this kit, it's quite simply outstanding.
Highly Recommended.
Thanks to Wespe Models for the sample
www.wespemodels.ro
Luke Pitt







Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

HAULER

HLX48306 TAMIYA JAGDTIGER UPDATE
HLX48308 ITALERI OPEL BLITZ TANKWAGEN UPDATE
HLX48309 ITALERI SDKFZ.234 PUMA UPDATE
HLX483010 ITALERI SDKFZ.234 PUMA ENGINE GRILLS UPDATE

Hauler has sent a number of 1:48 scale photo-etched and resin upgrades for this column to review and instead of reviewing them in depth, I will comment on what is in each set and offer my opinion on them:

HLX48306 TAMIYA JAGDTIGER UPDATE

This set includes two photo-etched frets for the new Tamiya kit. This upgrade consists of a very fine set of mesh grills for the rear of the vehicle, together with a Photo etch fret for most of the smaller fittings on the outside of the vehicle. This set would greatly enhance the Tamiya kit.
Recommended.

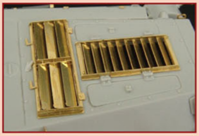
HLX48308 ITALERI OPEL BLITZ TANKWAGEN UPDATE

This set consists of one photo-etched fret and one clear film (which include the instrument cluster).The photo-etched includes items like the windshield surround, various boxes, numberplate surrounds and various tie downs. The etch itself is very well done and will greatly enhance the Italeri kit.
Recommended.

HLX48309 ITALERI SDKFZ.234 PUMA UPDATE

This set consists of one photo-etched fret and 7 resin tools the photo-etched includes items. The photo-etched fret includes most of the smaller fittings on the outside of the vehicle and in my opinion is an absolute must for the Italeri Puma the etch itself is very well done and will greatly enhance the kit.
Highly Recommended.

HLX483010 ITALERI SDKFZ.234 PUMA ENGINE GRILLES UPDATE



This set together with HLX48309 is an absolute must for the Italeri kit. In this set all the rear engine vents are included and are very finely done, not only that they are designed in such a way that they will be easy to apply. This is one of Haulers best simple, yet very effective.
Highly Recommended.

These upgrades offer a level of detail not found in the kits they intend to upgrade and are well worthwhile.
Thanks to Hauler for the samples www.hauler.cz
Luke Pitt

MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Rick Lawler

Rick Lawler is 48 years old and married with two sons. He has a degree in business management from Oregon State University. Upon graduating he started a business that he operated for the next 24 years. He enjoys snow skiing, cycling, cooking, hiking, music, and of course building models. He can remember building his first model kit (a racing car) at the age of five and has continued to build models since that time.

In 2008 he changed direction and decided to pursue modelling as his full time career. He took a position with MIG Productions to become their director of operations in the United States and Canada. He also took a position at Masterpiece Models where he splits his time heading their model kits department while also working with the fabrication department where they create exhibit type models for museums around the world.

Rick's modelling is firmly based in the so-called "Spanish Style" but he has managed to translate and modify it to produce his own unique approach. What I like about Ricks style is he is open to new ideas and I think we can all learn from that.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Rick good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Rick; *My best 1:48 scale model? It might be cliché to say this but probably the next one. With every project there is always some aspect that I know could be improved upon. They are never perfect, but the next one might be! Each of my projects has something that makes it special for me, though some of the highlights for me include the StuG IV, which was my first 1:48 scale scale model and introduced me to 1:48 scale community. The Marder III was special as it was part of the Marder Mania group build on Missing-Lynx that fostered many close friendships. I like the abandoned Komatu dozer (Jungle Rot) that has a rusted finish that was a lot of fun to do. My most recent project, the Tamiya M10, was my first real attempt at painting 1:48 scale scale figures - which are quite small!*

Luke: You raise some good points here Rick, in particular your thoughts on embracing new ideas and concepts. What is the most influential 1:48 scale model you have seen in print and why?

Rick; *Thanks Luke, yeah, modelling is a journey of sorts; anyway I'm not sure that I could point to one particular model that has been the most influential to me. I will say that there are a number of artists who continually push the envelope and who continually demonstrate what is possible in this scale. As a group, these artists and their works are the influence.*

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 scale what would that be?

Rick; *Oh, that's a tough one. I suppose in general I would like to see more heavy construction equipment. Not necessarily military related, but subjects like shovels, scrappers, log trucks, etc. Real world machines that you might see every day. These machines work hard and take lots of abuse – and it shows. Just think of the wonderful painting and weathering opportunities.*

Luke: Thanks for your time Rick, I am always inspired by your builds and know a lot of others are too

Rick: *Thanks Luke and keep up the great work.*

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BIG, BAD AND UGLY
Graham Tetley takes a first look in the box at CyberHobby's all-new 1:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug.
NEU KID ON THE BLOCK
Gary Edmundson gets his hands on a pre-release CyberHobby 1:35 scale Neubaufahrzeug Nr.2 kit, and wastes no time in getting it built.

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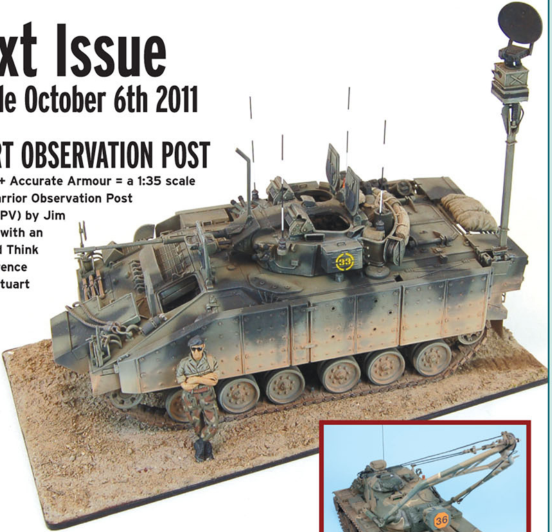


DESERT OBSERVATION POST

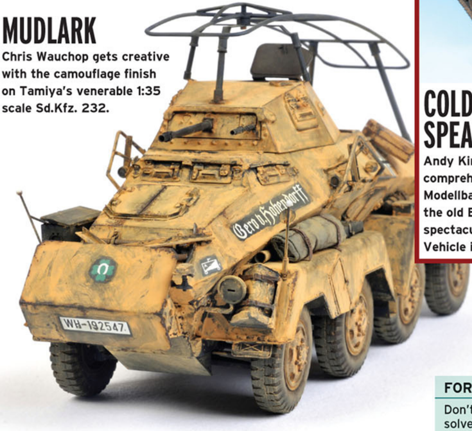
Academy + Accurate Armour = a 1:35 scale British Warrior Observation Post Vehicle (OPV) by Jim Wechsler, with an associated Think Tank reference piece by Stuart Ransley.

COLD WAR SPEARHEAD

Andy King combines the comprehensive Perfect Scale Modellbau M728 conversion with the old ESCI M60 to produce a spectacular Combat Engineering Vehicle in 1:35 scale.

MUDLARK

Chris Wauchop gets creative with the camouflage finish on Tamiya's venerable 1:35 scale Sd.Kfz. 232.



HOTCHKISS PART TWO

The Editor completes Bronco's 1:35 scale Hotchkiss H39.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!

...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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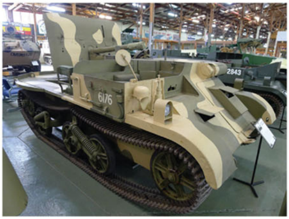
The Last Post..

MUSEUM VISITS



At the beginning of July, we took a rare but welcome family road trip to Melbourne. We made a point of taking our time and dropping in to attractions along the way, which just happened to include the museum at Bandiana army base.

I had heard good things about this museum but never managed to visit until now. Bandiana's museum is a big, well organised establishment with literally hundreds of vehicles and military artefacts on display. Most of the vehicles are located under one gigantic roof, but a dozen or two are stored outside.

Although the exhibits were impressive, the highlight of my day was the slack-jawed wonder on the face of my 11 year old son when he saw the weapons on display just inside the entrance. Sebastian is not a modeller – my wife insists that one obsessive per household is more than enough – but he is very keen on military video games and has a pretty good knowledge of infantry weapons and their terminology as a result. Even so, the closest he has gotten to such weapons is his collection of Nerf guns, so when he saw the chronologically organised collection of rifles, pistols, machine guns and more, his eyes nearly fell out of his head.

I was also pleased to see that there was a designated area where the young (and the young at heart) could dress up, sit in a jeep or sight down the barrel of a Vickers machine gun. A movie theatre was also showing videos of Australian military history to help put all of this cold technology into a human perspective.

Granted, most of the readers of Model Military International magazine are not likely to be passing this museum in rural Australia, but it will be well worth taking a little time to include a local museum in your travels. You never know what you might find! ■

PANZERWRECKS 12

How did GIs turn a 12 tonner into a time bomb? Which hatch on a Jagdtiger is never noticed? What short-lived feature appeared on factory Jagdpanthers? What unique items were added later in the field? What colour was the 'Octopus Tiger'? Could a Panther take a round through the side and still move?

These questions and more are answered in Panzerwrecks 12, with 134 rare and unpublished large format photographs sourced from around the world inclusing one full-page shot in glorious colour adorning the inside back cover.

In common with previous releases, this volume is presented in a landscape format on glossy paper with large and well-reproduced wartime images. This issue has 114 photographs in its 97 pages.

This is the tenth volume in the excellent reference series from Lee Archer and William Auerbach dealing with German vehicles in various stages of abandonment, decay and destruction.

Features in this edition include:

- Self-Destruct: Story of a Jagdtiger
- Sarge Bealko Shoots a Tiger II
- Old Timers at Schmalnau
- Disc Camouflaged Panther at Parroy
- Panzer IV/70(V) Inside and Out

Panzerwrecks 12 will be a fantastic source of inspiration for modellers and researchers alike.
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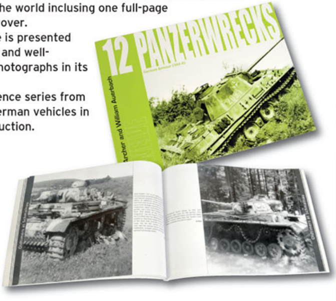

NUTS & BOLTS
27
2 cm Flakvierling 38

NUTS AND BOLTS VOLUME 27 2 CM FLAKVIERLING 38 BY DETLEV TERLISTEN

The latest publication from the Nuts and Bolts team covers the 2 cm Flakvierling 38.

The book is presented in A4 format over 168 glossy pages between soft covers. The text is delivered in both English and German, each occupying one column on every page. Captions are also bi-lingual. The detailed text commences with the development of the 2 cm Flakvierling 38, a thorough technical description, camouflage and markings, and active service.

The text then gives over to several pages of available models and accessories, followed by a wonderful reference section of captioned wartime photos. The photos are supplemented with the trademark excellent technical drawings of the Flakvierling and its trailer.

The second half of the book is devoted to colour profiles and museum walkaround photos. These will be ideal for modellers looking for reference and inspiration.

This title is wrapped up with a seven page modelling section by Tony Greenland.

Nuts and Bolts Volume 27 will be a perfect one-stop reference for anyone interested in the Flakvierling 38, and especially for modellers wishing to build Dragon's gem of a 1:35 scale kit, or any of the other vehicles that mounted this gun.

Highly Recommended.

Nuts and Bolts books are available online from their website www.nuts-bolts.de

ERRATA

COMPANY'S WEBSITE ADDRESS

I must apologise for quoting the wrong URL for The Airbrush Company's website in Issue 64.

Please note that the correct website address for the The Airbrush Company Limited in the UK is www.airbrushes.com This website directly offers products for sale from a wide range including Iwata, GreatWall Hobby, LifeColor and much more.

1:35 '39- '45 SERIES

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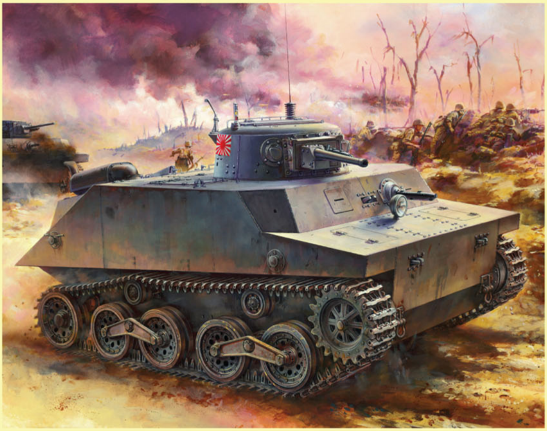
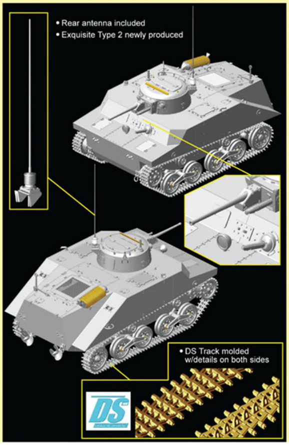
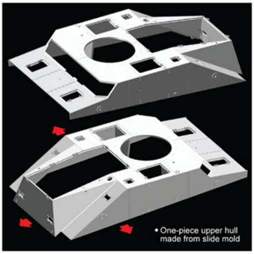
Engineered for modeling enjoyment | **Plastic parts with enhanced detail** | **Unprecedented value** | **Ready for immediate assembly!**

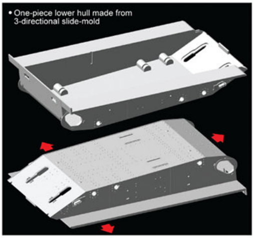




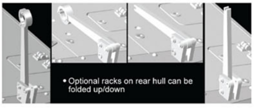
- Rear antenna included
- Exquisite Type 2 newly produced
- DS Track molded w/details on both sides



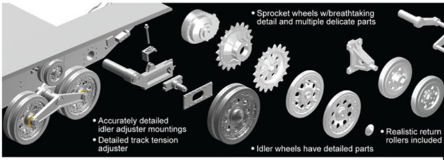
- One-piece upper hull made from slide mold



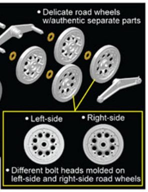
- One-piece lower hull made from 3-directional slide-mold



- Optional racks on rear hull can be folded up/down

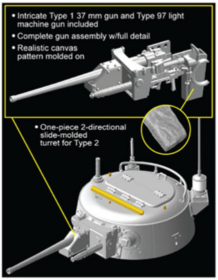


- Sprocket wheels w/breathtaking detail and multiple delicate parts
- Accurately detailed idler adjuster mountings
- Detailed track tension adjuster
- Idler wheels have detailed parts
- Realistic return rollers included

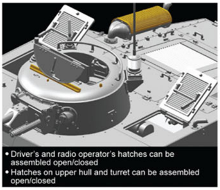


- Delicate road wheels w/authentic separate parts

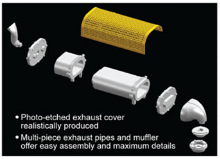
- Different bolt heads molded on left-side and right-side road wheels



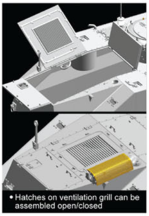
- Intricate Type 1 37 mm gun and Type 97 light machine gun included
- Complete gun assembly w/full detail
- Realistic canvas pattern molded on
- One-piece 2-directional slide-molded turret for Type 2



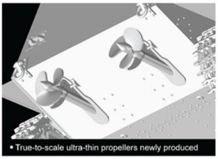
- Driver's and radio operator's hatches can be assembled open/closed
- Hatches on upper hull and turret can be assembled open/closed



- Photo-etched exhaust cover realistically produced
- Multi-piece exhaust pipes and muffler offer easy assembly and maximum details



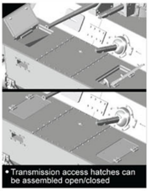
- Hatches on ventilation grill can be assembled open/closed



- True-to-scale ultra-thin propellers newly produced

- Injection molded float attachments w/crisp details

- Detailed towing-eye brackets w/separate parts



- Transmission access hatches can be assembled open/closed

D6678

DRAGON

THE HOBBY COMPANY LIMITED

Dragon Kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited, Knowlhill, Milton Keynes, MK5 8PG

See the full Dragon range at www.hobbyco.net

Dragon models are available from all good model shops

www.hobbyco.net

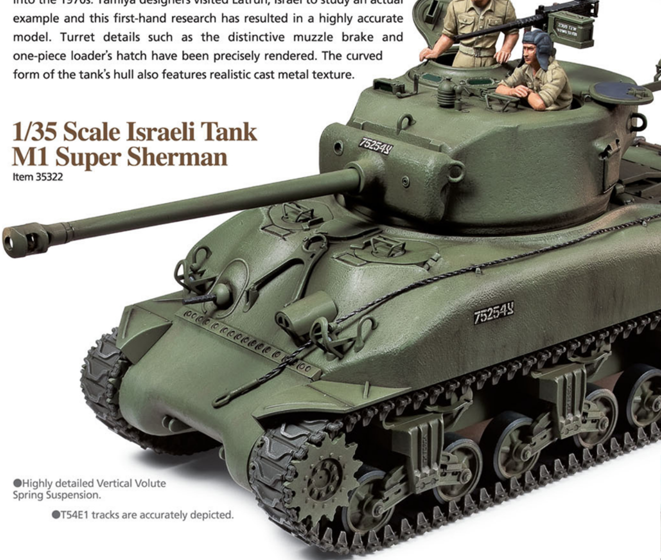
M1 SUPER SHERMAN

Defeating Goliath's Armor

Following Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, the Israeli Defense Forces chose the M4 Sherman as its first mainstay tank. However, most of their initial Shermans were armed with either the 75mm gun or 105mm howitzer, which were ineffective against the T-34/85 tanks that were fielded by Arab armies in 1956. In response, the IDF purchased M4A1 tanks from France. These were armed with the more powerful 76mm M1 gun and were thus designated by the IDF as M1 Super Shermans. Tamiya's 1/35 Scale Military Miniature Series kit depicts this tank, which served the IDF from the Suez Crisis in October 1956 until well into the 1970s. Tamiya designers visited Latrun, Israel to study an actual example and this first-hand research has resulted in a highly accurate model. Turret details such as the distinctive muzzle brake and one-piece loader's hatch have been precisely rendered. The curved form of the tank's hull also features realistic cast metal texture.

Length: 210mm

1/35 SCALE



1/35 Scale Israeli Tank M1 Super Sherman

Item 35322

●3 marking options are included.

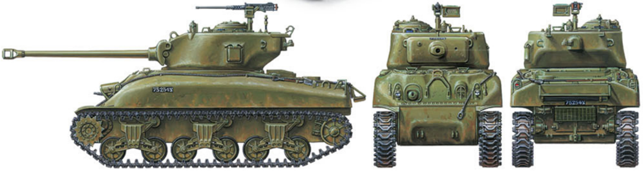
●Comes with commander and loader figures.

●Highly detailed Vertical Volute Spring Suspension.

●T54E1 tracks are accurately depicted.

Image is courtesy of The Armored Corps Memorial Site and Museum at Latrun.

The Armored Corps Memorial Site and Museum at Latrun is located in central Israel and has over 100 IDF and captured tanks in its collection. The site also features a memorial to fallen Armored Corps soldiers.



●Images show assembled and painted model kit.

●Product may vary from images shown.

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1/35 Scale Sherman Lineage

Tamiya's 1/35 MM Series also offers kits of the early-production M4 and late-production 75mm and 105mm gun-armed M4A3s to enable modelers to build some of the M1 Super Sherman's predecessors.

Item 35190

U.S. M4 Sherman (Early Production)

Item 35250

U.S. M4A3 Sherman Late Production 75mm Gun (Frontline Breakthrough)

Item 35251

U.S. M4A3 Sherman 105mm Howitzer (Assault Support)

TAMIYA

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